



**FIRST
PRESS**

DECEMBER 2020

Raising
support and
awareness
for **Hunger &
Homelessness.**

[See article page 12-13]

Beginning
the
conversation
on how to
**redeem the
casualties
to families**
from
COVID-19.

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Christmas
— ▲ —
AT FIRST

**Sharing the
Gospel to
the nations:**
Bible
translation
in Indonesia.

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God comes to us at
**Christmas, when we need
Him most.**

[See Pastor's article pages 2-3 & feature article pages 10-11]

When We Need It Most



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Christmas comes every year—good year or bad year, normal year or crazy year. And that is a good thing, because “2020” has become synonymous with “crazy.”

The truth is, we need Christmas—especially in the “2020” years, and this Advent is a good time to remember that Christmas comes every year because we need it.

Advent, especially Advent 2020, is not a time for sappy sentimentality. This year we need the real gospel truth and the promise of the Messiah now more than ever.

The Bible tells us that the promises of the Messiah did not come in peaceful easy times. They came in times of deep distress and trouble. The first promise of Messiah came immediately after the expulsion from Eden when the Lord told the serpent that a child would be born who “*shall crush your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*” (Genesis 3:15).

The promise came again during the time of exile:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

And most significantly, the promise of the Messiah came while the people of God were under Roman occupation. They came to Mary and said:

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for

you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)

Dr. William P. Wood, former Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte and former associate pastor of this church, once wrote that,

“Contrary to what the makers of Christmas cards would have us believe, the city of Bethlehem was not a quiet, pastoral city full of shepherds and mewing lambs. It was a city with dirty streets and violence. ... God came to Bethlehem to be with the people who were rejected, despised, divided and captive. It was there that he came to take upon himself their burdens, and to be their savior ... [The gospel promise] was spoken to a nation that is broken and captive, to a people that cry out for a Messiah, to a people that know that only God can give them what they need the most: peace.”

God promises the coming of the Messiah at the moment we need it most. Advent reminds us that the promise of the Messiah is not over. While Christ has won his victory over

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sin and death, the Bible also tells us that He will come again to claim his bride (the church) and to restore creation.

During the first days of fierce Christian persecution, the Lord showed the Apostle John that God is still on his throne and promised that the Messiah would come again:

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ... On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (See Revelation 19:11-16)

Advent points to the fact that the Messiah has come, and that he will come again. It reminds us that even when the world is at its most chaotic, God is still in control.

This Christmas comes at the end of the secular year, but Christmas and the season of Advent are the beginning of the church liturgical calendar. What the world sees as the end, we see as the new beginning. At the junction of the old and the new, through pandemic, elections, war and natural disasters, God's promise comes to us once again, as it does every year, and as it will until He returns.

**SOLI DEO GLORIA,
- REV. DR. BOB FULLER**

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Christmas at First

Sunday, Nov. 29

Pick up Family Advent Kits beginning this week.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Midday Noels - Shimmering Songs and Sparkling Singing, 12:00 PM, Sanctuary & online at fpcsanantonio.org/noels

Thursday, Dec. 10

Midday Noels - Sound the Trumpet!, 12:00 PM, Sanctuary & online at fpcsanantonio.org/noels

Sunday, Dec. 13

Children's Drive-Thru Christmas Pageant, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Large Parking Lot off Ave. E

Thursday, Dec. 17

Midday Noels - Christmas with the Petersen Family, 12:00 PM, Sanctuary & online at fpcsanantonio.org/noels

Thursday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Services: 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM, & 10:00 PM.

More information on activities this month on [pages 10-11](#).

Christmas Poinsettias

Deadline December 13

Each year during the Advent season, the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel. Download the order form from fpcsanantonio.org/poinsettias and turn it in by December 13 to get your poinsettias. Form available on [page 11](#).

Congregational Meeting

Date: Sunday, December 6

Time: After each service

Location: Sanctuary & Westminster Hall

A special congregational meeting will take place to call a new Officer Nominating Committee. The meeting will take place immediately following each of our three services (9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 11:02 PM.)

Literature Circle

Dates: Tuesday, December 8

fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

The FPC Literature Circle will present the novel, BEFORE WE WERE YOURS, by Lisa Wingate taped and available for your viewing pleasure by reviewer, Grace Clouse, starting December 8 on the church website: www.fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle. Based on an American real-life scandal, the novel reveals what happened to five siblings who lived with their parents aboard a shantyboat on the Mississippi River. The father had to leave the children one evening to take their ill mother to the hospital. What follows is an account of the children's lives in a world of danger and uncertainty. "Though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong."

During COVID, Literature books are available for reading by phoning volunteer Suzanne West, at 210-525-1499.

- Willie Willming, Publicity

Church Offices Closed

Dates: Friday, December 25 - Friday, January 1

Please note that the church offices will be closed Friday, December 25 through Friday, January 1, in observance of Christmas and New Year's. The offices will resume a regular schedule on Monday, January 4, 2021.

WOC Cookbooks For Sale

Sales Begin Sunday, Dec. 6

The WOC Cookbooks are in the final stages of production and should arrive just in time for your holiday gift giving. Purchasing to begin Sunday, December 6, online (fpcsanantonio.org/cookbook) and in-person (at the table outside the Ave. E entrance).

KRL Winter Support

Thank you for your support of The Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL) at FPC. Help fill the food and clothing pantries with necessities for our under-resourced neighbors in their journey to becoming self-sufficient:

CURRENT NEEDS:

- Men's and/or Women's socks and underwear (must be new)
- Jackets/coats/warm clothing (men and women)
- Casual shoes (for both men and women)
- Hygiene Kit Needs: Men's Deodorant, Travel Size 2-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wipes, Razors

You may donate by shopping the Amazon wish list at <http://tiny.cc/KRL-support> (link is case sensitive), created by our partner, SA Hope Center. All of the items that you purchase are shipped directly to the KRL. If you are interested in volunteering for our KRL ministries, contact Lindsay at lindsays@fpcsat.org.

Christmas Giving Opportunities

fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving

Gift of Christmas

Forms Due Dec. 2

Gift of Christmas matches FPC Covenant Partners with families in San Antonio who are screened by House of Neighborly Service and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Please prayerfully consider, either with a group or individually, "adopting" and sharing the joy of Christmas with one of the 13 remaining families. Information and Family Request Forms are available online at fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving. Contact Cassiehager39@gmail.com for more information.

PCHAS Angel Tree

Gifts Due Dec. 7

Presbyterian Children's Home and Services, founded in 1903, provides Christ-centered care and support for struggling children and families. Adopt a child from the PCHAS Angel Tree by contacting Diane Carsow at dianecarsow@gmail.com or (512) 940-3424. Gifts due back by Monday, Dec. 7. More information at fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving.

SA Heals Affordable Christmas

Gifts Due by Dec. 18

SA Heals hosts an "Affordable Christmas" market each year on the east side of San Antonio. They do this by providing donated toys, reduced 90% in price, that can be bought to bring Christmas morning excitement to families, while empowering and bringing dignity to them. This year's market is December 20.

If you would like to make a toy donation, please visit the Amazon Wishlist at <https://bit.ly/SAHealsChristmas>. For more information, please contact lindsays@fpcsat.org or visit fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving.

Women's Faith Gathering Retreat

February 26 - 27, 2021 | First Presbyterian Church

Join women of all ages for a time of connection, fun, and worship as together we look at our identity as beloved daughters of God and what it means to live our lives in response to God's love for us. Rev. Kristin Huffman will be our speaker. Contact Rev. Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org for more information.

Alternative Gift Market

Do you want to give Christmas gifts that will make a difference in San Antonio and the world?

Purchase a gift that will help impact the people and the work of several of our Local and Global missions partners.

We will have a table with shopping lists outside the Ave. E. Entrance on December 6, 13, & 20. You can pick up a shopping list or print one from the church website and submit it along with a check or cash to Lindsay Selli in the church office.

You may also fill out your shopping list online and pay with a credit or debit card beginning December 6.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org).

Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/agm



LOVING
THE WORLD

Indonesia

FPC Continues Christian Mission Work in Indonesia



Language: Nuaulu

Speakers: 2,000

Dates: 2019-2021

Total Project Cost: \$91,978

Project Goal: Seven New Testament books



NUAULU (noo-AH-loo)

ASIA — INDONESIA



One hundred seventy-five years ago, FPC was involved in the work of translating and sharing the gospel in San Antonio. Today, FPC Global Missions is continuing this work in partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators for the Nuaulu People in Southern Indonesia.

According to the Joshua Project, out of the 17,442 documented people groups in the world, 7,413 of them are unreached, with little to no access to the gospel.¹ When we read through the Bible, we understand God's heart for the whole world. From Genesis to Revelation, we see, over and over, that God blesses His people so that they can be a blessing as they make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

When we think about the call to make disciples of the nations, we understand the

importance of having access to God's word through the Bible. We know that all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). We understand that God's Word is a lamp to our feet (Ps 119) giving wisdom, direction, joy, and life. We have confidence in the Word because we know that it proves true (Ps 18:30), it is living and active (Heb 4:12), sustains us (Mt 4:4), and protects us (Ps 18:30).

As we consider the task of bringing the gospel to the nations, we recognize the need to provide access to the Bible in the native (heart) language of any believer. In her article titled "From Every Language," Barbara Grimes states that "People can handle the verbal skills required for adequate comprehension of the good news and for functioning as a disciple in their mother tongue; the question is whether or not they can do those things in their second language...Without Scriptures in the mother tongue, churches are not able to sustain spiritual depth into succeeding generations."² As of October 2020, Wycliffe Bible Translators reported that out of 7,360 spoken languages in the world, only 704 have a full Bible; 1 in 5 people are still waiting for the Bible in their own language.³

The translation team, in Indonesia, recently shared updates about their work and the task ahead. They plan to publish



seven New Testament books as well as to complete several passages of Scripture that will be used in church readings. Additionally, they recognize that the Nuaulu people are an oral culture, many preferring to encounter the gospel through spoken word. For that reason, the team has begun work on a translation of the "JESUS" film, several songs, and other materials to help people engage with Scripture. There are currently some completed translations of several Old and New Testament books, songs, and liturgy materials that have equipped the work of two local churches, both which have started holding some worship services in Nuaulu.

The team shared several prayer requests for the Nuaulu People and their continuing work:

- Drafted Scripture is being shared with Nuaulu university students who do not follow Jesus. Pray that God would use His Word to open their eyes to the truth and bring them to faith in Christ.
- Pray for the team to be able to visit the Nuaulu village. Travel access has been restricted due to the pandemic, which has created challenges for completing translation work on the initial chapters of John.

We praise God for the gift of His Word, and for blessing our church with the opportunity to partner with faithful men and women who are providing access to the gospel through their work of translation. For more information about the Nuaulu Project, please contact lindsays@fpcsat.org.

1. Joshua Project, 2020, joshuaproject.net/.
2. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Oct. 2020, www.wycliffe.org.uk/about/our-impact/.
3. Grimes, Barbara F. "From Every Language." Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: a Reader, by Ralph D. Winter et al., 4th ed., William Carey Library, 2014, pp. 565–567.

KEYS

REV. DR. JOE MOORE
Minister for older adults and
congregational care.



Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit

Remember, KEYS is not an exclusive club for older adults. Everyone is welcome to attend on Fridays and to join us on other activities as well, "Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit."



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given; and
the government shall
be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)"

I am excited for December and the celebration that is ahead. I look forward as Advent leads us to Christmas Day and the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Although this year has been difficult, we have the "Good News" of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are Blessed by the community He has given us through KEYS!

December 4th, we will be joined by Pat McCleary's niece, Doctor Emily Lindsey, Assistant Curator and Excavation Site Director at the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, and Adjunct Faculty in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA.

December 11th, get ready for a Virtual Christmas Party!!

December 15th, Deadline for all Gift of Christmas Contributions.

We meet on Fridays at 11:00 AM

Zoom meeting ID 570 618 8075
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5706188075>

No Password Necessary

If you need help with Zoom feel free to contact me @ 802-734-2329 or Joem@fpcsat.org

Photos from Elf Louise 2019. We look forward to being able to take part in this outreach in the future.



Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow

We were fortunate to find Jacqueline Crow to conduct an online via Zoom fitness program for us. We received her contact information through Morningside Manor. All reviews of Jacqi's class have been glowing. Someone said, "she does such a good job online, I can't wait until we can continue in person".

Topic: Friday Fitness

Time: Fridays 09:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6199532743?pwd=aHRoaWNZdWtpMXJFa3dHSWVCYk1lUT09>

Meeting ID: 619 953 2743

Passcode: Strength



Operation Christmas Child Thank You!

Thank you for your generosity this year making Operation Christmas Child a huge success! We turned in 265 boxes! I'm so grateful for all the families and children who took time to create or donate to make a box happen. These boxes are delivered to children around the world, to not only enjoy Christmas, but to hear the gospel! May your gift be multiplied and the salvation of one become many!

Rozlyn Miller

- Ministry Director to Children and their Families

Children's Drive-Thru Christmas Pageant

Sunday | December 13 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | Large Parking Lot

This year we will have a unique, drive-thru Christmas Pageant featuring families from our church in the large parking lot off of Ave. E and McCullough. Concessions of popcorn and hot chocolate will also be available. If your family is interested in

participating in one of our 30 minute shifts,

please contact Rozlyn Miller at [rozlynm@](mailto:rozlynm@fpcsat.org)

[fpcsat.org](mailto:rozlynm@fpcsat.org). Rehearsal is Saturday, December 5,

from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Set up is December 13

right after church, and lunch will be provided.





Christmas



A T F I R S T

Midday Noels

THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 3, 10, 17

We offer our holiday “gift to the city” through a variety of free, creative musical offerings, followed by a choice of “Grab and Go” lunch (\$5). For more information, free tickets for in-person concerts, and livestream video, visit fpcsanantonio.org/noels.

SHIMMERING SONGS & SPARKLING SINGING

Thursday, December 3 | 12:00 PM

Our FPC Chamber Singers present four beautiful choral pieces of the season, interspersed with captivating vocal solos that span diverse genres including opera and popular song.

SOUND THE TRUMPET!

Thursday, December 10 | 12:00 PM

Our highly skilled keyboardist, Dr. Jae Ha, is joined by Brandon Pauley, professional trumpeter and Adjunct Instructor of High Brass at Schreiner University. Jae’s musical presentations are always a highlight of our series and not to be missed!

CHRISTMAS WITH THE PETERSEN FAMILY

Thursday, December 17 | 12:00 PM

We are excited to welcome The Petersen Family, a YouTube sensation, from their home in Branson, Missouri. For the first time in Midday Noels history, we will present this renowned family ensemble in a livestream performance from Branson to both our in-person and online audience. The Petersen Family has developed an international reputation for their interpretations of popular song, gospel, and bluegrass classics. A staple of the Branson entertainment landscape, they’ve been ranked as the #1 show in the area by TripAdvisor.



IN THIS TOGETHER EVENT RAISES AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS WEEK

Each year, the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless hosts a citywide awareness week for Hunger and Homelessness. This year, First Presbyterian Church partnered in a collaborative outreach to raise awareness for our neighbors, and our church and community, through an event called In This Together.

FPC Partnered with nine different ministries and organizations, including Any Woman Can, Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM), Canines for Christ, Faith Based Institute, the Kingdom Restoration

Lab (KRL), the Haven for Hope downtown outreach team, the SA Christian Dental Clinic, the SA Hope Center, and an FPC Prayer Team. As our neighbors learned about available resources to help them, our church and the community were able to gain an understanding of the growing numbers of homeless and hungry in our city.

In addition to our outreach, Teresa McCaleb shared a powerful testimony (watch the video at fpcsanantonio.org/reset) about how God has worked in her heart as she has connected with our



neighbors with our Young Adults and University Students. This group helped pack about 200 homeless care bags at their most recent RESET Gathering.

We praise the Lord for a beautiful afternoon to care for our neighbors as we joined in prayer and fellowship. We would also like to thank K-Love (91.3) for the publicity, and to Chris Madrid's for giving away 330 hamburgers and plates of fries!



STATE OF THE FAMILY PANEL DISCUSSION



As casualties from the COVID-19 health crisis cascade into every sector of our society, we as the Church must identify and act upon God's redemptive plan for restorative work within our city. On Wednesday, November 11, the RTC hosted a forum on the State of the Family within San Antonio, where a panel of speakers covering six sectors of our city spoke, including government, SAPD, health (mental), education, non-profit, and the Church. The cross-sectorial conversation that included representatives from the Mayor's Office, SAPD, various faith-based non-profits, and school system, brought to life the outright assault against our families.

Families make up a key thread in God's fabric of design for society and this is especially true for San Antonio, a family city. However, as we flattened

the curve for the virus, we drastically increased the curve for domestic and child abuse and other casualties for children and families. Agencies who support these victims have also fallen prey to the effects of the virus as their plans have slowed down and been altered.

The data shared by the panelists was overwhelming, but the hope shared through faith in Christ and collaborative effort with the Body of Christ was tangible. The church has upstream power and promises through Christ to not only redeem the casualties of the COVID-19 health crisis afflicting families, but also to break cycles that are tearing the fabric of our city apart.

A few snapshots of what was shared by our panel speakers:

- San Antonio has 185 homeless youths between 18-25 years old.

This youth homelessness is up 45% over last year.

- There is a 37% increase in people with suicidal thoughts coming out of the lockdown.

- Academic gaps are growing exponentially.

- Texas is ranked #3 in the country for prevalence of mental illness in 2020, but we are ranked #50 in rates of access to care.

Families that are strong build strong communities. By God's grace, this forum opened a conversation that allows us as God's workers to see the work that needs to be done. Please listen to the forum at fpcsanantonio.org/redeeming-the-crisis

Will you please prayerfully consider joining us and making a difference within the city by meeting the needs of our families?

- JENNIE BROOKS

BETSY ZACHRY

President, Women of the Church

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH REFLECTING ON THE GOOD

Wishing everyone who reads this a joyful Advent Season

despite the difficulties many have experienced in 2020. May the reminder of the Christ child's humble entry into this world bring you peace and thankfulness.

To list some of the things I am most thankful for: my Savior, God's plan not mine, this magnificent world He created, our Country, the freedoms we treasure in this Country, my husband, daughters, son-in-law, Church home and YOU, Women of the Church! It has been a blessing beyond measure getting to know so many faithful and wise Christian women through Women of the Church—I am learning so much through your grace, patience, and God-given talents. Thank you.

Reflecting on some of the “really good” things that have and are occurring the latter half of 2020:

- we filled (stuffed!) 13 backpacks for CAM to give students returning to school.
- celebrated in-person and online Barbie and Doug Beach [speech](#) at a modified Fall Legacy Luncheon on mental health, and the positive things occurring in the field.
- provided lunches for a Habitat Build (generously given by Circle 1/12).
- we have committed monthly to provide a “gift of thanks” to the staff in the KRL.
- we celebrated, again in a modified format, Ladies Night Out-side, with 60 women gathering on the patios and backyards of five homes.
- we assembled the darling Morningside Manor Christmas door hangers with Circle 8 members, Sara Parish and Lilly Gretzinger, to be given to the resident's in their care packages.
- Pat Stanley, Toni Legrand and Judith McNeel decorated Westminster in a Fall theme and



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

provided a wonderful Staff Appreciation lunch from Jason's Deli along with framed calligraphy Bible verses for everyone on staff.

- many of our members enthusiastically filled shoe boxes in support of Children's Ministry's efforts to fill 500, for Operation Christmas Child.
- Cassie McMillan and Janet Pritchett are currently signing-up members of our Church to support Gift of Christmas for HNS families.
- Diane Carssow is over-seeing efforts to assist Presbyterian Children's Home and Services with gifts for some of their children, as well as needs for the new single parent family duplexes being built on their property.
- this month, we will be delivering gift bags to 107 residents at Morningside Manor. Although not the normal way that we celebrate Christmas with these wonderful Seniors, Janice Wilson, has modified this yearly event to insure the residents know we love and care about them.
- our members have enthusiastically responded to writing postcards of encouragement and appreciation to the hard-working individuals who are

employed by many of our local mission partners.

- Our own Karin Gabrielson will be organizing the Circles to provide a feast on Christmas Eve for our pastors, staff, and choir to enjoy.
- And finally, Judy Kruger's hard work and that of her committee's will be enjoyed by all as we anticipate the arrival of First Presbyterian Church's 175th Anniversary Cookbook, "Come to the Table"! Arriving just in time for Christmas gift giving! Special thanks to Dorothy Hecimovich, Ross Brown, and Hank Cherry for their investment of time bringing this together.

As you can see, despite a pandemic, the work of the Church continues--where God closes a door, He opens a window! There are many opportunities to participate and meet other women who love and serve Jesus Christ. Anyone interested in learning more about Women of the Church, we welcome you with open arms! Please do not hesitate to contact me either through email or cell: betsyz@swbell.net or 210-262-1236.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

December Circle Schedule

Circle Number	Circle Theme	Meeting Info	Additional Info
Circle 1/12	Bible Circle	December 21 10:30 AM FPC Geneva Room	
Circle 5	Shawl Ministry	December 17 10:00 AM FPC Room 228	
Circle 6	Bible Circle	December 15 1:30 PM FPC Geneva Room	
Circle 7	Bible Circle	December 15 11:30 AM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 8	Mom's Group	December 1 7:30 PM Various Locations	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 9	Bible Circle	December 15 10:30 AM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 11	Bible Circle	December 14 6:30 PM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 13	Literature Circle	December 8 1:00 PM fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle	Open to women & men; December Book: <i>Before We Were Yours</i> by Lisa Wingate
Circle 14	Bible Circle	December 16 12:00 PM FPC St. Andrew's Room	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 18	Circle of Concern	No formal meetings: Opportunity for service throughout the year	
Circle 20	Circle of Service	No formal meetings: Opportunity for service throughout the year	



FIRST CUP READINGS DECEMBER, 2020

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.— Psalm 143:8

- 1 Isaiah 40; Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:4
- 2 Matthew 24
- 3 1 Thessalonians 4-5
- 4 2 Peter 3
- 5 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Corinthians 1:18; John 3:16-18

*"Thy Kingdom come," on bended knee the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that Kingdom's day.
And lo! Already on the hills the flags of dawn appear. Gird
up your loins, ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near! The day
in whose clear-shining light all wrong shall stand revealed; when
justice shall be clothed with might and every hurt be healed; when
knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad;
the day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God. (The
Hymnbook, #484)*

- 6 Luke 1:37-80; 3:1-6
- 7 Matthew 3; 11:1-19
- 8 Mark 6:6b-29; Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 10:17-23
- 9 Isaiah 9:1-7; 11-12; Micah 5:2-5
- 10 Psalm 23; 28:6-9; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Zechariah 13:1-7;
John 10:1-18
- 11 Psalm 46; Psalm 91
- 12 Psalm 143; 121

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart. Born Thy
people to deliver, born a child and yet a King. Born to reign in us
forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal
Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all-sufficient merit raise
us to Thy glorious throne. (The Hymnbook, #151)*

- 13 Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38;
Hebrews 11:6
- 14 Psalm 89
- 15 Hebrews 1-2
- 16 Hebrews 3-5:10
- 17 Hebrews 5:11-7
- 18 Hebrews 8-9
- 19 Hebrews 10

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy
deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark
streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hope and fears of all the
years are met in thee tonight. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend
to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come
to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. (The Hymnbook, #171)*

- 20 Luke 1:38-56; Psalm 138
- 21 Luke 1:57-80; Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:27-34
- 22 Romans 10-11
- 23 Romans 12
- 24 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23
- 25 Psalm 47; Colossians 1:24-2:5
- 26 Isaiah 55

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice,
give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift
up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! His Kingdom cannot
fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven. The keys of death and hell are
to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice,
again I say, rejoice! He all His foes shall quell, shall all our sins
destroy, and every bosom swell with pure seraphic joy. Lift up your
heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! (Hymnbook,
#140)*

- 27 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 2:21-40
- 28 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 29 John 1:1-34; Ephesians 1:1-14
- 30 John 3; 5:24; 1 John 3
- 31 Psalm 90; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).

[illegible]



Rozlyn Miller

Rozlyn joins by Reaffirmation of faith. Rozlyn is the Children's Director of FPC. She and Tyson married at FPC on October 24, 2020. She lives with two teens, Tyson, and Trace, life is never dull. She is looking forward to leaving a legacy and serving God well.



Rebecca (Becky) Hamner

Becky joins by Reaffirmation of faith. Becky is a retired Pediatric Dentist. She is also a substitute teacher for NISD since 2008. She and Ron have three wonderful daughters and 6 grandchildren. She is looking forward to being nurtured by God's Word and being part of a community of faith.

Ron Hamner

Ron joins by Reaffirmation of faith. Ron retired in July as a Nephrologist. Ron Scates was an usher in his wedding the Trinity University Chapel. He is looking forward to re-engaging in learning and teaching. Seeking to go where God leads him.



Tyson Cline

Tyson joins by Reaffirmation of faith. Tyson is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. He lives with his son, two teens and a dog. He is looking forward to building new relationships with other believers and growing in faith with Christ.



Cheston Goudge

Cheston joins by Affirmation. Cheston is employed by Castlerock Exploration. He is looking forward to getting involved in some form or fashion.



SaraBeth Goudge

SaraBeth joins by Affirmation – SaraBeth is employed with Northside ISD. Her and Cheston were married at FPC. She is looking forward to getting connected and serving.

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