



FIRST PRESS

FEBRUARY 2021

**175th Anniversary: FPC's historical
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Repent and Lent



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said Poenitentiam agite [lat. "do penance;" "repent"], willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

These are the words of Thesis No.1, of Martin Luther's famous *Ninety-Five Theses* and they are the words that sparked the beginning of the protestant reformation. Luther nailed this famous list of 95 propositions to the cathedral door in Wittenberg Germany in October 1536. His purpose was not to divide or bring down the medieval Roman Catholic church, but rather to spark a debate on the topic of *repentance* and to turn the world's attention to Jesus Christ.

According to the Gospel of Mark, the command to repent was the first command Jesus gave in his public ministry. The Son of God broke onto the stage saying

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15)

Repentance is one of those antiquated, "churchy" words that we often hear but don't really understand. It means more than just saying "I'm sorry." The original Greek word here is *metanoëō* and it literally means *to change the way you think*. It means *to change your attitude about God, sin and righteousness, to change your will* and then *to change your life*.

But, in Aramaic and Hebrew, the language Jesus spoke, repentance has a more physical connotation. The word *shub* means to physically turn around. It means to *change directions, to turn away from our distractions, temptations and idols and turn toward God*. So, in our Christian understanding, repentance means to *change your mind* and *turn around*.

So why did Jesus come telling people to repent? When God looked at the spiritual condition and direction of his people and the world, He saw that they were going a hundred miles an hour in the wrong direction. Jesus knew that for God's Kingdom vision to take hold, people must repent. They must "turn around" and to align their minds and their lives to God's will.

Jesus came to tell us, "God has a better, a holier, and eternal vision for you. He has made you His Holy People and His Royal priesthood. He has made you to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He has made you to make a difference and to bear the light of His truth to the world. But you are headed in the wrong direction.

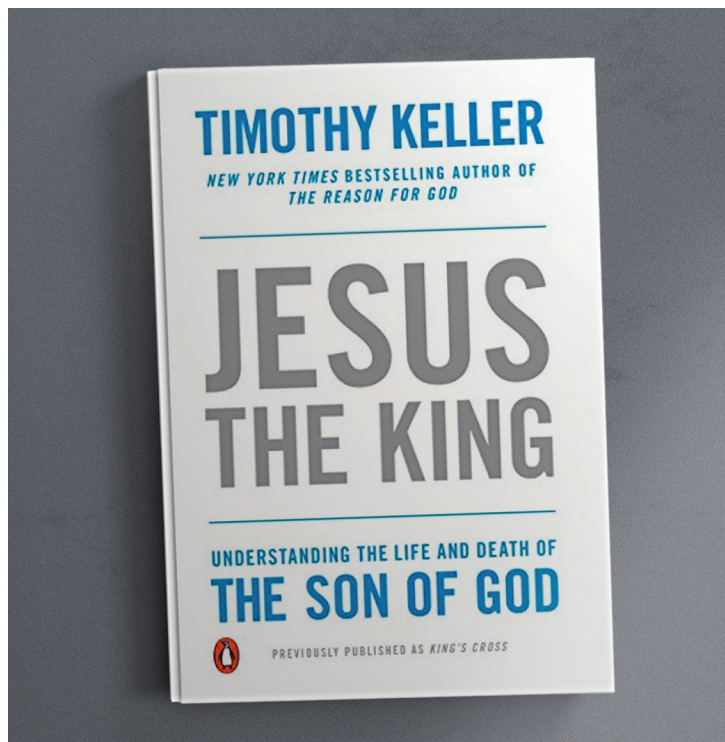
- You have to turn around spiritually...and take your relationship with God seriously
- You have to turn around morally...and rethink your personal behavior
- You have to turn around socially...and rethink your relationships and responsibilities as a community."

Jesus is saying, you are not going to get to the Kingdom of God if you keep following your own directions. You need to turn around and get back on God's path.

As we begin the season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we need to remember that Lent is a season of repentance. It is a time for us to reflect on our lives and redirect our attention to Jesus Christ God and his purposes.

At the beginning of January, we began our 175th year as a church by opening a study of the *Gospel of Mark*. The book of Mark is the story of Jesus, and the story of Jesus is the foundation for our story as a church and our personal stories as disciples.

To deepen our study of *Mark* this Lent, I want to invite you to join me in reading a truly great book by a truly great author. The book is *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*, by Timothy J. Keller. Dr. Keller is an author, teacher and founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, New York.



The book is based on Keller's sermons on the *Gospel of Mark*. From the forward, *Jesus the King* is

an extended meditation on the historical Christian premise that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection form the central event of cosmic and human history as well as the central organizing principle of our own lives... [Its purpose is] to try to show, through his words and actions, how beautifully his life makes sense of ours (p. x).

As the story of Mark unfolds, we see Jesus moving from the edge of the frontier in Galilee to the center of the universe. As Jesus moves to center stage in the story, we are forced to wrestle with the place he will hold in our lives. Keller writes that

[Jesus] is both the rest and the storm, both the victim and the wielder of the flaming sword, and you must reject him on the basis of both. Either you'll have to kill him or you'll have to crown him. The one thing you can't do is just say, "What an interesting guy" (p. 162).

As we move toward Easter, I hope you will join me in reading and studying this great book. More importantly, I hope that we will all heed the Lord's call to "repent"—to reframe our attention and turn our lives to him.

**Grace and Peace,
- Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller**

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First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team. Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**
Dorothy Hecimovich: **Graphic Designer**
Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator**

Questions? Contact:

Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org)

Ash Wednesday Service

Date: Wednesday, February 17

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Sanctuary

Join us for a special evening service in the FPC Sanctuary for Ash Wednesday. Wednesday evening Pastor's Bible Study, High School Bible Study, and Women's Bible Study will not meet so participants may attend the service.

Valentine's Parents' Night Out

Date: Sunday, February 14

Time: 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Assembly Room

Contact: Heather Beltrame,

heatherb@fpcsat.org

Register: fpcsanantonio.org/kids-events

Parents' Night Out on Sunday, February 14 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM in the Assembly Room. Children ages 0 - 5th Grade are welcome. \$5 per child. Children must be picked up by 8:00 PM: late fees will be charged beginning at 8:05 PM. Registration deadline is Feb. 12. No snacks will be provided, but children are welcome to bring a packed dinner and wear their pjs. Email Heather for more information.

Sunday Youth Fellowship

Dates: Sundays, February 7 & 21,

March 21, and April 11 & 25

Times & Locations: TBD

Contact: Alex Clary, alexc@fpcsat.org, 210-777-2433

Join the fun on Sunday evenings with other youth for socially distanced outdoor gatherings, and other fun fellowship opportunities on Sundays. Check our Instagram or contact Alex for more information.

Women of Faith Retreat Preview Night

Date: Sunday, February 28

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Location: FPC Courtyard

Please join us for a Women's Retreat Preview Night! This will take place in the Courtyard at FPC (weather permitting) on Sunday, February 28 from 5:00-6:30 PM. We will have socially distanced fellowship and a preview of what you can expect at our full retreat in September! Women of all ages are welcome. No sign up is necessary. Contact Rev. Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org for more information. The Women of Faith Retreat has been postponed until September 10-11, after much prayer and consideration regarding the pandemic. View the ad on [page 24](#) for more information.

Youth Missions Day

Date: Saturday | Feb. 27

Time: All Day

Contact: Alex Clary, alexc@fpcsat.org

Join the FPC Youth for a day of service! Watch for more details as the date approaches or contact Alex Clary for more information.

RESET Gathering

Dates: Mondays 2/22, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24

Time: 7:00-8:15 PM

Location: Westminster Hall; Online at fpcsanantonio.org/media

Contact: Rev. Mitchell Moore, mitchellm@fpcsat.org

Join other Young Adults and University students for a time of worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. The RESET Gathering is a chance for us to reset our hearts, minds, and lives on knowing Jesus personally, following Jesus wholly, worshipping Jesus corporately, and serving Jesus globally. Please come check it out and visit fpcsanantonio.org/reset for more information and to sign up.



Pastor's Bible Study Spring 2021

Revelation Study Continues

Dates: Through Mar. 24/25
(no meeting on Ash Wed. 2/17, or
Spring Break Mar. 10/11)

Times: Wednesdays | 7:00 PM and
Thursdays | 9:30 AM

Locations: Wednesdays | Covenant
Hall and Thursdays | Sanctuary &
Online fpcsanantonio.org/pbs

Join Bob on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary (so we can spread out), or virtually via live stream through the FPC app or fpcsanantonio.org/pbs. There is also a special Wednesday night edition each week at 7:00 PM in Covenant Hall (no live stream on Wednesdays.)

KRL 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.

Job & Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday Audio/Visual Tech Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy audio/video production or tech gadgets? Are you good with computers? We could use your help on Sunday mornings to support those worshipping the Lord, both in-person and online. Volunteers are welcome for all services. Please contact Ross Brown at rossb@fpcsat.org if you are interested and able to help.

Welcome Team Needs You!

The Welcome Team is in need of Greeters for in-person and online worship services. We also need Ushers to serve in our on-campus Worship Services. Help us extend FPC's greatest hospitality to those God sends through our doors. Please contact Wendy Garcia at wendyg@fpcsat.org to sign up.

Hiring Assistant Director to Youth & their Families

First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio is accepting applications for an Assistant Director to Youth and their Families. Potential candidates should have a heart for family ministry and a desire to work with a team to see students grow in their walk with Christ. Resumes can be sent to Alex Clary, alexc@fpcsat.org, and visit the church website at fpcsanantonio.org/jobs for more information.

Missions Upcoming:



Visit from RPC Haiti Pastor & Family

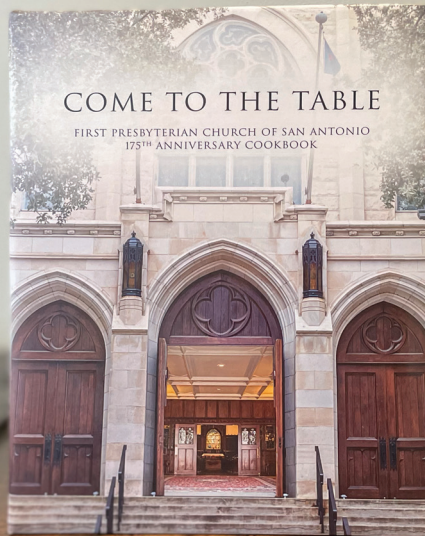
Pastor Delfils (RPC Haiti) and his family will be visiting First Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, February 21**. We look forward to hearing from Pastor Delfils in our worship services and during the Sunday school hour. For more information about RPC Haiti or ways to connect with the Delfils Family during their visit, please contact missions@fpcsat.org.

Watch for Local Mission Outreach Opportunities fpcsanantonio.org/local-missions

- **Love Does Outreach** – A Collaborative Outreach at CAM (with KRL ministries, and other ministries focused on loving our neighbors.)
- **Local Missions Encouragement Project** – See more information in [article on page 12-13](#).
- **Love Our Teachers Project** – We will have a date and details soon.

WOC 175th Anniversary Cookbook

We sold out of our first order of the WOC 175th Anniversary Cookbooks! Preorder online (\$25 each) for our next shipment at fpcsanantonio.org/cookbook. Once the next shipment arrives you may pick up your online Cookbook purchases by bringing your receipt email to the table on Sundays or coordinate with Judy Kruger at 210.857.0122 or judykruger@sbcglobal.net.



Save the Dates for Lent and Holy Week:

February 17 - Ash Wednesday

March 28 - Palm Sunday

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

April 2 - Good Friday

April 4 - Easter Sunday

February Literature Circle

Date: Tuesday, February 9

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Westminster Hall (In person, live) and fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle (recorded)

Reviewer, Bill Hensley, will present LOVE DEEPER THAN A RIVER. Author Lila Cockrell recalls her life as a public servant in the city she loves. A graduate of SMU and holder of several honorary degrees, her civic leadership positions were many: 3 terms on the city council, 4 terms as the 1st woman mayor in S.A., many municipal commissions, civic boards, foundations, etc. She also served as a WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II. Masks are required for in-person attendance and seating will be socially distanced. You may bring your own personal bottle of drinking water as no refreshments will be served.

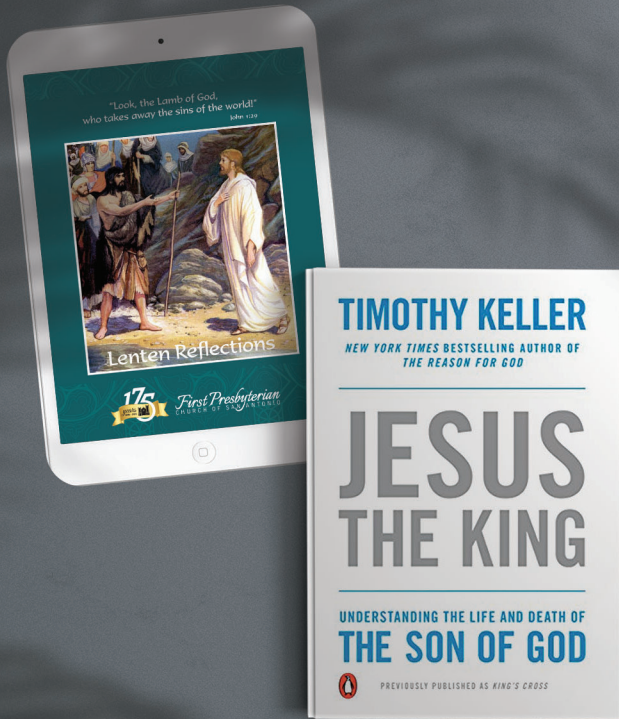
Virtual Children's Choir

Time: Wednesdays | 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Ages: Four years - 5th grade.

Register at fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-choir

Children's Choir will be recording a video to help celebrate on Palm Sunday. Children may still join this virtual group that strives to enrich children's lives in three core areas: spiritual formation and growth, musical skills and personal growth. Contact kathyj@fpcsat.org for more information.



Lenten Reading and Devotions

The Lenten season begins this year with Ash Wednesday on February 17 and culminates with Easter Sunday on April 4.

As in past years (1997, 2011, and 2017-2019), First Presbyterian Church (FPC) prayerfully offers a 175th Anniversary edition of *Lenten Reflections*. This online devotion booklet includes 47 writings by FPC members, along with selected artwork and associated scriptural texts which tell the story of Jesus with Old and New Testament scriptures and personal reflections. We believe you will be encouraged and inspired by their thoughts. Read and download at fpcsanantonio.org/lent2021 starting February 17.

Rev. Bob Fuller is also encouraging the congregation to read *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*, by Timothy Keller, during Lent this year to prepare our hearts for remembering the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

Prayer at FPC

Care and Concern is an email prayer list within the congregation. Given its private nature, it can offer more personal information for congregational care to take place as well as prayer. You must submit your email address and request to be part of this email list by contacting Lisa Snow at lisas@fpcsat.org or 210-226-0215. Care and Concern Line: 210-222-CARE.

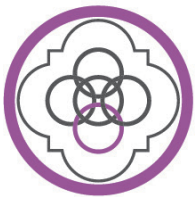
The Prayer Wall at fpcsanantonio.org/prayer-wall is an online public place for you to ask for prayer, pray for others, and see when people are praying for your needs. You may submit prayers on the website or email PrayerWall@fpcsat.org.

FPC Virtual Prayer Room is now meeting MONTHLY on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, Feb. 3**, on Zoom from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302
Password: 727274.
Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/virtual-prayer-room



BRIDGES TO CARE INITIATIVE

To Focus on Community-Wide Mental Health & Wellness



REDEEMING THE CRISIS
EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

T

he Redeeming the Crisis Task Force (RTC) at First Presbyterian Church, seeks to empower and care for indi-

viduals and families in our congregation and city who are afflicted by casualties cascading from the COVID-19 crisis. This includes those suffering from mental illness.



Each of us falls somewhere on the mental health & wellness continuum. We weave in and out of stability and uncertainty by way of the circumstances that surround us this side of heaven. No one is exempt from existing on this spectrum. This time of unprecedented crisis through the COVID-19 Pandemic and other 2020 tragedies, have brought mental health related issues to the forefront. It has moved us all back and forth on the mental wellness continuum. It is times like these where we desperately desire rest for our souls. The topic of mental health is complex, and situations are unique to each individual: ADHD, Alzheimer's, Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Eating Disorders, OCD, Personality Disorders, PTSD, Substance Abuse

.....

The initial training session for the Bridges to Care program included a segment on Companionship. It provided insight into how important hospitality, neighborly and listening are with respect to dealing with those in our community who have challenged lives. I feel that First Presbyterian already demonstrates many of the elements of Companionship through our participation in the KRL ministry. It is a great opportunity to connect with our neighbors and offer Christian compassion toward those in need.

- John Thomas



Disorders, Schizophrenia, and other illnesses of the brain.

FPC will be participating in a City and County-wide initiative that will truly make a difference in our community called Bridges to Care. BTC-SA, is a new program coordinating its efforts with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). It builds connections between congregations and service providers, trains people to be companions with one another for mental and behavioral health, brings hope and compassion to our city through clusters of congregations in each district, and makes known the resources available to all for continued wellness.

After training is completed, First Presbyterian will be designated as a Behavioral Health & Wellness Friendly Congregation and will be so noted widely on Social Media, Internet, and venues throughout the City of San Antonio. Currently,

Redeeming the Crisis' mental health team has eight people completing the first wave of training. They have completed 10 of the nearly 20 hours of training. Please pray for discernment if this is a ministry where God is directing you to serve.

To be "healthy" from a Christian perspective, it is important to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and all of our MIND! It is absolutely critical that we create an environment in our churches and community where all four aspects of loving our Lord receive equal attention and care. Too often embarrassment and shame accompany caring for our minds. Everyone must move beyond the notion that our physical bodies or emotional state trump our mental state. A broken world has brought about that distinction. God did not. First Presbyterian Church and the RTC Task Force are committed to removing the stigma associated with mental

illness. We acknowledge that too many communities have fallen short of ministering fully to the mentally ill as well as giving respite and resources to their caregivers. If you are suffering, please bring your burdens to us so that we can direct you to available resources. In this way you will not suffer in silence or be alone on your journey.

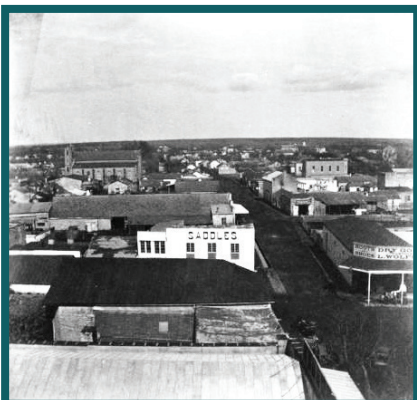
You are welcome to contact Jennifer Borges at jennborges@hotmail.com for information regarding assisting in this ministry or receiving direction for help and support in your mental health journey.

Please be praying for this new program, its volunteers, and those that will be seeking help in our congregation and in our city. To God be the Glory!

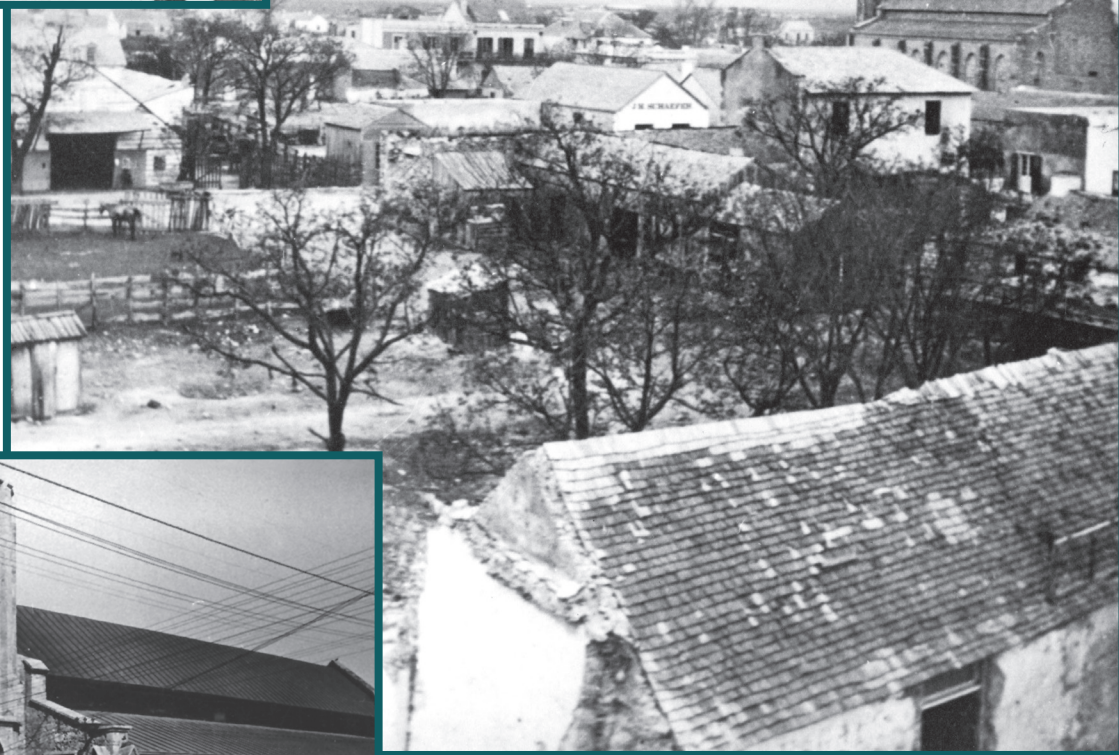


THE HISTORY CORNER BY BILL COGBURN

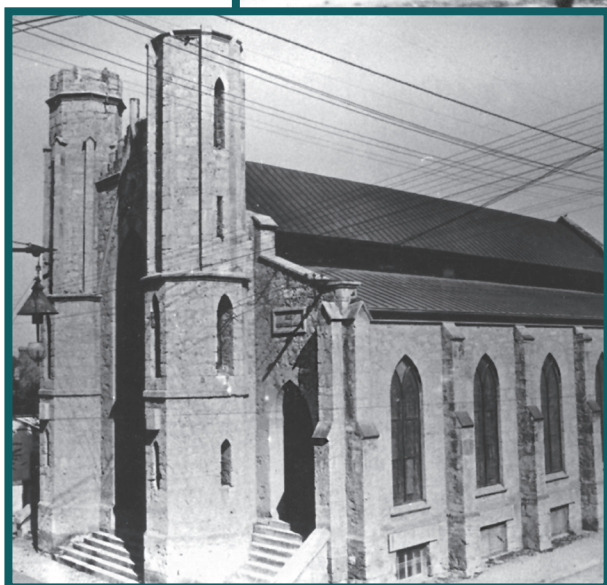
(ARTICLE ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED JUNE 2016)



(Left Photo) c. 1870s. View from bell tower of San Fernando Cathedral. Acequia St. (later Main), in middle of photo running north/south. Note the open acequia on the west side of street. First Pres is in the distance on left. Langholz & Noyes Saddlery in center. Wolfson's Dry Goods and clothing is on right fronting on Main Plaza.



(Above photo) c. 1872. A snow day in San Antonio. Looking northwest from Plaza House on Main Plaza. First Pres is on upper right. Roof at lower right is J. Henry Schaefer Groceries & Provisions.



(Left photo) c. 1870. First Pres at Flores & Rivas (later Houston St.).

THE CHURCH ON FLORES STREET

If you have occasion to visit Frost Bank Tower on Houston Street at N. Flores, before you approach the doors, stop and turn around. You'll be looking straight at a statue of banker Thomas Claiborne Frost (1833 – 1902). Where the statue stands is very near the location of the altar of the former First Presbyterian Church which stood on this site fronting N. Flores Street. About one-half block further west on Houston Street, on the north side of the walk, you'll see a high, limestone block wall which is the back side of the Frost Motor Bank.

Between the wall and the sidewalk, a historic marker reads:

“The hand-chiseled native limestone used in the walls on both ends of the Frost Motor Bank was taken from the former First Presbyterian Church located on W. Houston and N. Flores. The walls were laid in 1860 but the Gothic Revival-styled building was not dedicated until November 1879. After the congregation moved, the old structure was converted to a variety of businesses until it was dismantled in 1982. These stones were stored for reuse and the motor bank was completed in July 1989.”

Having outgrown the Old Adobe on Commerce Street, Rev. Robert Bunting and his building committee began looking for a place to build a new church. In the spring of 1859, a site was selected at the northeast corner of Rivas (now Houston) and N. Flores Streets. The Committee recommended a building at a “minimum cost of \$12,000”. This venture was quite an audacious undertaking for a congregation of only 146 members.

The architect's plans accepted in May 1859 anticipated a total cost of \$20,000. A vigorous fund raising effort netted \$8,000. Feeling that he had exhausted his resources in San Antonio, Rev. Bunting proposed a bold venture. He would make a trip through New England and make appeals for his new church on the frontier. After ten months, his famous “begging tour” raised \$6,600. The cornerstone of the new church building was laid February 29, 1860. The walls, roof, windows and doors were finished that year at a total cost of \$15,000.

Rev. Bunting presided as moderator over his last session meeting on September 25, 1861. The next month, he rode away to become a Confederate Chaplain for Terry's Texas Rangers. For the rest of the Civil War and the few years afterward, First Pres was served by itinerate ministers, if at all. It would be a decade before First Pres would have another permanent pastor. The Civil War left San Antonio and the entire state of Texas in

turmoil. The unstable and weakened economy in the city stifled any growth of the local church. During the 1870s, San Antonio began to prosper as a cattle, mercantile and military center serving the border regions and the Southwest. It also became a southern hub and supplier of cattle drives. With the coming of the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway in 1877, San Antonio, formerly without a viable transportation system, entered a new era of economic growth. By 1880, the population had grown to 20,000. The church at Flores and Houston Street was finally finished and dedicated on November 30, 1879.

By the 1890s, the congregation began to feel that the busy intersection at Flores and Houston Streets was no longer an appropriate place for their church. They were surrounded by taverns and saloons which had proliferated along the once quiet, respectable street said to be the prettiest street in San Antonio. The famed Buckhorn Saloon was just across Houston Street and the Saturday night patrons often had not finished their revelry by Sunday morning worship time. Church leaders received little help from the City in enforcing noise ordinances.

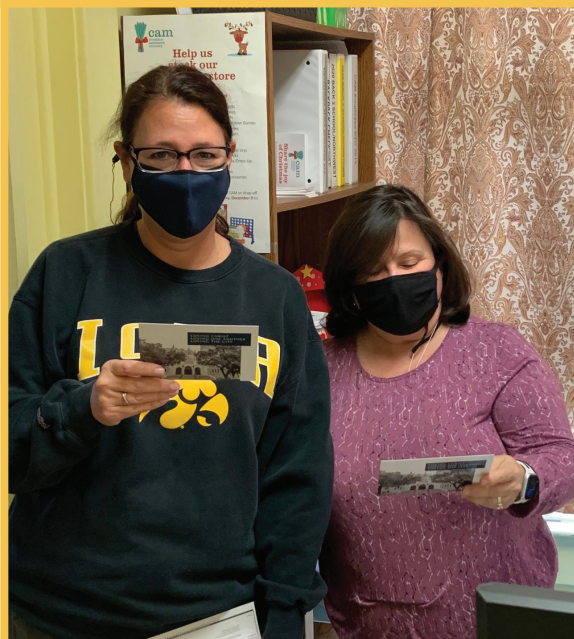
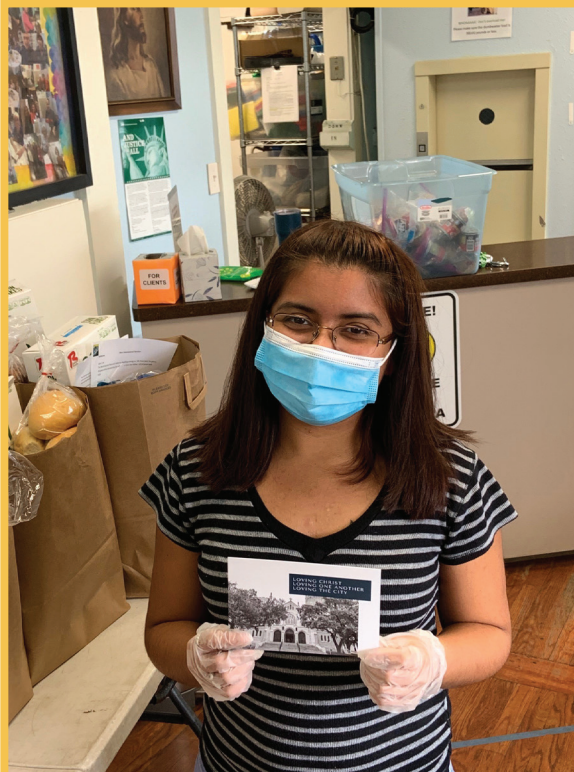
By 1905, the congregation felt they had no choice but to move. At a congregation meeting on June 24, 1907, approval was given for the sale of the church building on Flores Street for \$30,000.

In retrospect, one might say that the decision to build the new church in the first place was a case of unfortunate timing. While the church began its building program in 1859 with great optimism, it soon turned to despair as the city and the nation slogged through the Civil War. During those awful war years and for several years afterward, the church did not thrive but merely treaded water. But they persevered – they didn't give up. As we celebrate 175 years since our church's founding, that's the important lesson we learn from this bit of church history. They kept moving forward, and we are here today because they never gave up!

Source: First Presbyterian Church, One Hundredth Anniversary, by Muriel Forbes; Texas Historical Assn – Handbook of Texas, First Pres Archives; photos courtesy UTSA Libraries Special Collections.

Local Missions Encouragement Project

Supports Frontline Workers



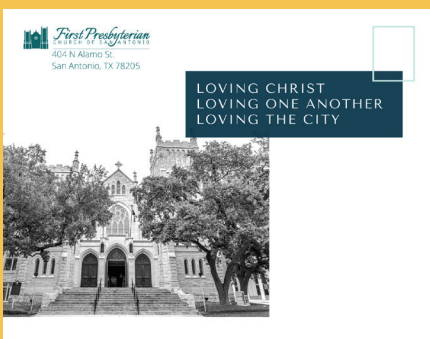
As the staff teams of our Local Missions Partners rose to the challenges of serving throughout the Covid Pandemic in 2020, your FPC Local Missions Committee identified an opportunity to serve them through the Local Missions

Encouragement Project. The goal is to share prayer and encouragement through a handwritten postcard to each staff member of each ministry partner, while we learn more about and connect with our ministry partners!

In December, our FPC Family responded by writing over 440 postcards to the full staff of four of our ministry partners: Mission Road, Haven for Hope, CAM, and the KRL! We are thankful to all who cared for these frontline workers by acknowledging their sacrificial service and sharing Scripture and an uplifting prayer.

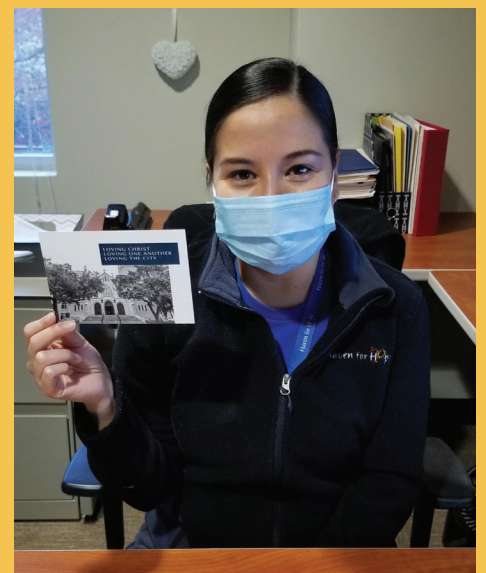
Having someone, even someone you don't know, simply say "thank you," provide words of encouragement, and offer prayer during these challenging times can have a profoundly positive impact. We hope you consider engaging with us on this project, as we bring thanks and prayers directly to more of our FPC Local Mission Partners this spring!

Soli Deo Gloria!



How to Get Involved

Coming later this spring, look for the Cards of Encouragement postcards and the Postcard Box in Mauze Lobby to write a few notes and drop them off for hand delivery to more of our local missions partners.



TOLLE LEGE

Partnership Supports Christian Education in Poland



The Bryćko Family

Throughout 2020, we saw God work in unexpected ways in our own lives and through our Global Mission Partners. He continued to remind us of His faithfulness as He provided resources and opportunities for our church to serve in partnership for His glory. One of the places we saw this in a big way was through our partnerships in Poland.

First Presbyterian Church began partnering with the Tolle Lege Institute just over one year ago. In this

time we have been able to celebrate their continued work in translating Reformed Theology resources into the Polish Language. Tolle Lege shared that they were working to complete the translation on The Westminster Confession of Faith this year. FPC is grateful for this opportunity to collaborate by fully funding the project.

The Lord also continued to bless FPC and Tolle Lege with relationships in Poland. Through God's provision, Poland's only Reformed Seminary program is being developed at the Warsaw School of Theology and Social Sciences (WSTS).

Tolle Lege has been invited to relocate to this campus where Pastor Darius has begun teaching, and their library of over 8,000 resources is right at the doorstep of students and faculty.

WSTS was able to host a conference teaching on the Puritans last November, with the help of Tolle Lege. The conference was taught in person and shared online with over 100 people from over five countries, in English and Polish. We also celebrate that one of the guest speakers was our very own Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller. The full conference can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/TolleLegeConference>.



As we give thanks to God for His work in Poland in 2020, we invite you to join in prayer for all He will accomplish for His glory in 2021. Please continue to pray for our partnerships in Poland as they equip and encourage a new generation of leaders to plant churches and share the gospel across Europe. Please pray for the church in Poland to come alive with the Gospel and grow with new believers. Please pray for opportunities for FPC to continue growing in deeper relationship in Poland and for opportunity to share in the work of the Church in Poland, according to God's will.

For more information about the Tolle Lege Institute, please visit <https://tollelegeinstitute.org> or email Brooke.Brycko@TolleLegeInstitute.org.



Pozdrowienia z San Antonio, w Teksasie, USA i od First Presbyterian Church.
Nazywam się Bob Fuller i jestem pastorem First Presbyterian Church.
Cieszę się, że mogę być dzisiaj z Wami.

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 in other activities as well, "Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit."

We kicked off the New Year with up to date information on COVID-19 from Dr. Junda Woo, Medical Director for the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. She encouraged us to be safe and keep sanitizing and social distancing!

On **February 5**, we will hear from Rev. Mitchell Moore with highlights of what has been happening through local and global missions.

On **February 12**, we will be joined by President & Mrs. Lincoln in honor of his birthday. Max and Donna Daniels have been portraying Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln since 1988. They will be sharing the story of the background and creation of the Gettysburg Address.

We are working on a virtual concert with Rick Cavender coming in March.

If you have recommendations for KEYS speakers please don't hesitate to email joem@fpcsat.org, text or call 802-734-2329.

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.

Join the Email Mailing List

Receive a weekly email update on who is speaking and a link to connect directly to Zoom by sending me, Joe Moore (joem@fpcsat.org), your email address to be added to our list.

KEYS Christmas Family

Thank you to all who were a part of the blessing for our Christmas family this year. All of the children received gifts that were requested, and we also provided most of the special requests for the family. In addition, we were able to present them with HEB and Walmart gift cards totaling \$650.



Children's Ministry Caregivers

AARP Safe Driving Class

If your AARP Safe Driving Class insurance discount is expiring, you can take the class online at www.aarpdriversafety.org.

Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow

We were fortunate to find Jacqueline Crow to conduct a 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 at 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6199532743?pwd=aHRoaWNZdWtpMXJFa3dHSWVCYk1UT09>

Meeting ID: 619 953 2743

Passcode: Strength

Babies, babies, & more babies! Our FPC families are growing, and we will have a packed nursery by the middle of 2021. How marvelous that the Lord gives new life year after year!

I would like to take a moment to state that we are so blessed to have such wonderful loving Caregivers on staff here at FPC. Week after week, these ladies watch our little ones and guide them while trusting parents attend Sunday school class or worship or on occasion a church event. Each one shows up eagerly and full of love for our littles. I would encourage our church body to pray for these ladies as they offer care.

When the pandemic struck, the Caregivers took a mandatory, four-week online course offered for free through Texas A&M University, on new compliance measures during Covid and caring for children in a daycare setting, before returning to campus. These





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**Ms. Lupe, Ms. Maria,
Ms. Mary, Ms. Suzie, Ms.
Esther, Ms. Cecelia, we are
grateful for and love each
of you!**

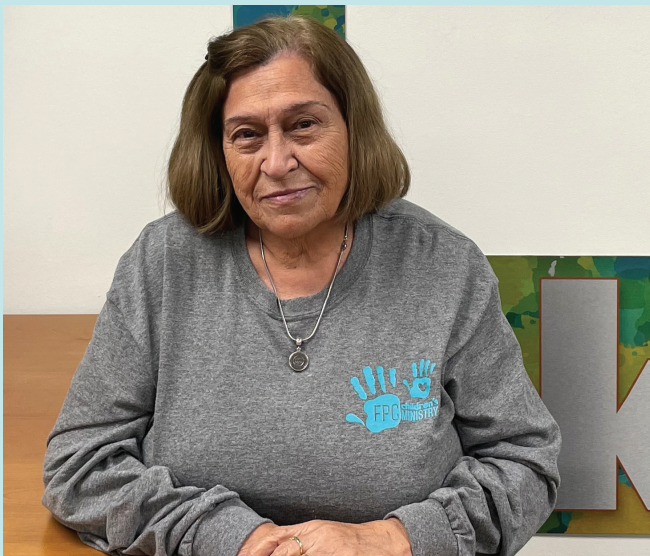
Caregivers had to re-learn how to care for the children's needs while following a new standard of protocol of physical distancing and potty time! Now, I'm not sure how many of you readers have attempted to physically distance a toddler, but let me tell you...it's an art!



Bravo to our amazing Caregivers and their love for our church families and their sweet children and babies. Each one of them has a story and each one of them is valuable to our team in the Children's Ministry running smoothly week to week. Ms. Lupe, Ms. Maria, Ms. Mary, Ms. Suzie, Ms. Esther, Ms. Cecelia, I am grateful for each of you and love each of you to bits! Thank you for serving on staff here with us. You are always ready at the helm, anytime the doors are open, to watch our precious children.

Rozlyn Miller

- Ministry Director to Children and their Families



THANK YOU!!

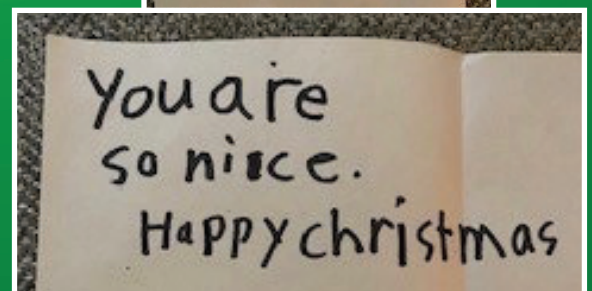
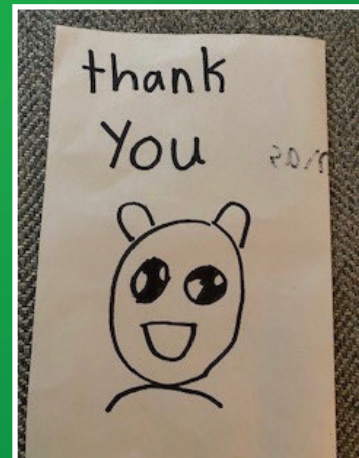
THE Gift OF Christmas

Once again, the covenant partners of First Presbyterian Church have answered the call of families in San Antonio who asked for help for this Christmas season. Partnering with House of Neighborly Services, 30 families were “adopted” and gifts were provided for each family member—bicycles, scooters, doll houses, computers, pots, pans, sheets, blankets and outdoor cookers are just a few of the items given.

My co-chair, Janet Pritchett and I thank each and every one of you who participated in the program this year, either by donating funds or providing shawls, books, gift cards and wrapped presents. Christ’s love was shared with each family as FPC Covenant Partners and friends delivered a bounty of joy, hope and love to brothers and sisters in our community. These photos are an example of the appreciation and gratitude of your generosity.

Blessings to all for a year filled with joy, hope and love.

- Cassie McMillan



BETSY ZACHRY

President, Women of the Church

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH CIRCLES OF COMMUNITY

Over the past couple of months, I have heard wonderful stories that define the deep roots that so many women members of our Church enjoy within their circle. A common thread woven throughout these recollections relayed by these individuals has been the bond forged within their group. Sometimes it is the simple enjoyment of a laugh while recalling a shared story. At other times, the supportive shoulders of Christian sisters to lean on and encourage one traversing a difficult personal situation. Most often, it is shared prayer uniting these women within their small group.

The beauty of the Women of the Church Circles is that they offer variety—there are strictly service circles that provide meals for new and adoptive/fostering parents and those recuperating from illness or surgery. There is a book club offering monthly selections for the bibliophile in the family—this is open to men and women. WOC has a knitting circle providing shawls for distribution for the various needs of the Church community-as-a-whole to give to shut-ins or other special need. There are circles whose moderators share the lessons taught by Rev. Becky Prichard on a pre-selected Biblically-based book study. We have a circle



who has done a combination of service projects and a group chosen book study. Finally, we have a young mom's group who meet for dinner and shared time.

If you tell yourself you do not have time for one more gathering or you do not need one more friend, you may be missing out on a relationship that God desires for you. For the relationships that God ordains, He always provides the time, and it will always bear fruit. You just need to trust Him.

All of our circles are friendly and welcome visitors with open arms. And should a group of women wish to form a new circle, that opportunity exists as well.

Shelley Bass (VP of Circles) and I are easily reached should you have inquiries: 210-861-6996 and betsyz@swbell.net or 210-262-1236.

Page 20 top photo: WOC provides Christmas Eve dinner to officers helping with security for services. Page 21 left photo: Singers, musicians, and staff also enjoyed the Christmas eve spread provided by WOC. Page 21 right photo: WOC delivers Christmas gift bags to Morningside Manor.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

February Circle Schedule - Dates & Locations May Change Due to COVID

Circle Number	Circle Theme	Regular Meeting Info	Additional Info
Circle 1/12	Bible Circle	Monday, February 15 10:30 AM FPC Geneva Room	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 5	Shawl Ministry	Friday, February 19 10:00 AM FPC Room 228	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 6	Bible Circle	Tuesday, February 16 1:30 PM FPC Geneva Room	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 7	Bible Circle	Tuesday, February 16 11:30 AM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 8	Mom's Group	No formal meeting planned this month.	
Circle 9	Bible Circle	Tuesday, February 16 10:30 AM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 11	Bible Circle	Monday, February 22 6:30 PM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 13	Literature Circle	Tuesday, February 9 1:30 PM Westminster Hall & fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle	Open to women & men; February Book: <i>Love Deeper Than a River</i> by Lila Cockrell
Circle 14	Bible Circle	Monday, February 15 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 FEBRUARY, 2021

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 Psalm 20; Proverbs 15:29; Jeremiah 33:2-3; Psalm 37:4
- 2 Psalm 21; Proverbs 3
- 3 Psalm 22; Hebrews 5:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11
- 4 Psalm 23; John 10
- 5 Psalm 24; Hebrews 12:14-19
- 6 Psalm 25; James 1:1-12

In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear. And safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here. The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid, but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed? Wherever He may guide me, no want shall turn me back. My Shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack. His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim; He knows the way I taketh, and I will walk with him. (The Hymnbook, #417)

- 7 Psalm 26; Psalm 1:1-3; James 4:4
- 8 Psalm 27; Psalm 90:13-16
- 9 Psalm 28; 2 Timothy 4:9-18
- 10 Psalm 29; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30
- 11 Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- 12 Psalm 31; 27:5; Job 5:17-27
- 13 Psalm 32; James 5:13-19

The steps of those whom He approves are ordered by the Lord; And though they fall, held by His hand, they yet shall be restored. I have not seen, though since my youth full many years have fled, the saint forsaken, nor beheld His children begging bread. The children of the merciful find blessings kept in store; Depart from evil and do good, and live forevermore. Wait on the Lord and keep His way, And then, by Him approved, Thy heritage shall still remain when sinners are removed. Mark well the perfect, upright man, as still his years increase; Behold his life, and thou shalt see His journey end in peace. (The Hymnbook, #422)

- 14 Psalm 33; Jeremiah 33
- 15 Psalm 34; Jeremiah 32:17-44
- 16 Job 21; Psalm 35
- 17 Psalm 36; 1 Peter 2:9-12
- 18 Psalm 37; Proverbs 23:17-18
- 19 Psalm 38; Hebrews 12:1-13
- 20 Psalm 39; Luke 12:13-21

O grant us light, that we may know the wisdom Thou alone canst give; That truth may guide wher-e'er we go, And virtue bless wher-e'er we live. O grant us light, that we may learn how dead is life from Thee apart, How sure is joy for all who turn to Thee an undivided heart. O grant us light, in grief and pain, To lift our burdened hearts above, And count the very cross a gain, And bless our Father's hidden love. O grant us light, when, soon or late, All earthly scenes shall pass away, In Thee to find the open gate To deathless home and endless day. (The Hymnbook, #335)

- 21 Psalm 40; Psalm 89
- 22 Psalm 41; James 5:13-20
- 23 Psalm 42; 57:1-3; Job 35
- 24 Psalm 43; Psalm 84
- 25 Psalm 44; Romans 8:13-39
- 26 Psalm 45; Hebrews 1
- 27 Psalm 46; Psalm 9:9-10; Psalm 14

The heavens declare Thy glory Lord, In every star Thy wisdom shines; But when our eyes behold thy Word, we read Thy name in fairer lines. The rolling sun, the changing light, And nights and days, Thy power confess; But the blest Volume Thou hast writ reveals Thy justice and Thy Grace. Sun, moon, and stars convey Thy praise round the whole earth, and never stand; so when Thy truth began its race, it touched and glanced on every land. Nor shall Thy spreading gospel rest till through the world Thy truth has run; Till Christ has all the nations blest that see the light, or feel the sun. (The Hymnbook, # 259)

- 28 Psalm 47; I Chronicles 16

FIRST PRESS MAGAZINE 23

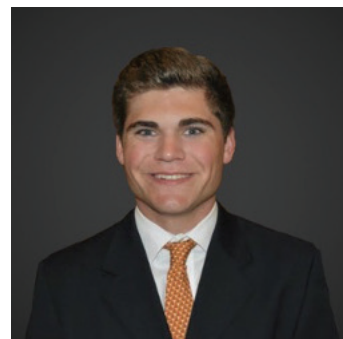


WOMEN OF FAITH RETREAT

Friday - Saturday
September 10-11, 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. Registration coming this summer! Contact Rev. Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org for more information.

JANUARY NEW COVENANT PARTNER



Jacob McKenzie

Jake joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. Jake is employed with EOG Resources and has three brothers. He is looking forward to fulfilling his call to be a part of the body of Christ and serving the community.

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OFFICES LOCATED AT AVENUE E NEAREST MCCULLOUGH

210-226-0215 • www.fpcsanantonio.org



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