

Under God



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller Senior Pastor

very school day, millions of American children recite these familiar words:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and

to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I believe that the two most important words of the pledge are the words "under" and "God." These two words did not appear in the original version of the pledge, crafted by Francis Bellamy in 1892.

On February 7, 1954, the Rev. George M. Docherty, pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. preached a sermon, suggesting that the words "under God" be added to the pledge. In that sermon, Reverend Docherty quoted the last line of the Gettysburg address:

...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth

Docherty preached that Lincoln's words "under God" captured something definitive about our aspirations as a nation. For that reason, he enthusiastically argued that the words "under God" should be added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance that day was President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The President was so inspired by the pastor's passionate plea that he added his weight to an ongoing debate about the wording of the pledge and on June 14, 1954, the words "under God" became part of our national creed.

In the last few months (and especially in the last few weeks) those words have taken on a new depth of meaning for me. Right now, we need to remember those words "Under God," and the special affirmation they represent. They are a reminder that we believe that God is real and that Jesus Christ is Lord. They tell us that God loves His people, and that He loves his creation. They claim the promises that our Heavenly Father knows us by name and that He hears our prayers.

In that spirit, I would like to share with you a prayer by the Hon. Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State and a fellow Presbyterian (Menlo Church, ECO). It was a prayer that she offered in 2016, but it is as relevant now as it was then.

Oh, dear Heavenly Father,

We come to You with heavy hearts. We come to you with confused minds. We come to you with sinking spirits, but we come to you, too, knowing that we can always count on You. We are so grateful as a people and as a church to have a friend in You, to whom we can bring all of our concerns, all of our trials and tribulations, and we do that now.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the victims of the violence of last week ...and the victims of violence in weeks past, in years past, in our cities and our country and our world. We ask you to protect, dear Heavenly Father, those who protect us and protect our rights—our men and women of law enforcement and those amazing men and women in uniform, who protect us on the front lines of freedom—who volunteer to defend us at the front lines of freedom across the world.

Dear Heavenly Father, we acknowledge as the American people our dark past, our history of oppression coming from our birth defect of slavery, of prejudice. We recognize that the wounds and the stain, that the pain still lingers today, and that it shadows our relationships with one another and sows division.

But dear Heavenly Father, that is not the future we want for our country. We do not want that division to continue to shadow our future, or the future of our children or our grandchildren, and so we turn to You. We know that there are no easy answers, but the answers will come through You.

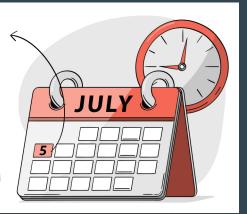
Dear Heavenly Father, as a nation and as a people we need to race again toward you, into the embrace of your loving arms. Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for guidance, we pray for wisdom for our leaders, and we pray that each and every one of us will leave this place justified by faith and secure and confident in your deep, deep love for us. And that from that confidence and security of our relationship with You, we will go out into the world as instruments of your peace, as instruments of the reconciliation that you seek from us, and as instruments of your love. That each and every day, dear Heavenly Father, we will search and ask that we can be a blessing to one another, as you have been a blessing to us. These things we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Grace and Peace, Bob Fuller

NEW SERVICE TIMES STARTING JULY 5

TRADITIONAL - 9:00 AM CONTEMPORARY - 11:02 AM ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR - 10:00 AM



SERVICE TIME CHANGE

JULY SUNDAY SERVICE TIME CHANGES!

Sunday, July 5 - Service & Sunday School Schedule

- 9:00 AM Traditional Service Live Online
- 10:00 AM Online Adult, Youth, & Children's Classes
- 11:02 AM Contemporary Service Live Online

SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Both the 9:00 AM Traditional Service & 11:02 AM Contemporary Service will be live streamed to fpcsanantonio.org/media at their respective times and then be available throughout the week on the same webpage. Each service can also be found at fpcsanantonio.org/ worship/traditional or fpcsanantonio.org/worship/contemporary respectively and on our mobile app.

ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS HOUR

Join us for Sunday school online beginning at 10:00 AM on Sunday, July 5 for Adult, Youth, & Children (See list on page 4.) At this time, due to the recent spike in Covid-19 cases in San Antonio and out of an abundance of caution, there will be no services, classes, or childcare on-campus on Sunday mornings. We invite families to continue to worship together from home. Stay tuned for more information about children's ministry as we approach August and look forward to the reopening of schools.

Visit fpcsanantonio.org/reunion for more information and guides for the reopening of the church building.

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Adult Sunday School Classes

Starting Online | Sunday, July 5 10:00 AM Sunday School Hour

All online Sunday School classes will move to the 10:00 AM hour starting July 5. Please read class details below and contact your class teacher with any questions or to get Zoom Meeting details.

Foundations Marriage Class, ABC, Arthur Gray Jones, Uncomfortables and Bridges are currently not meeting for the summer but they are all planning to resume Fall 2020.

Contact Becky Prichard at beckyp@ fpcsat.org for more info.

First Class | Zoom | 10:00 AM

Teachers: Chuck Bunn, chuck@bunngroup.com and Pat Brodeen, pat@brodeen.com
We will be studying Scripture and what they teach us about Christian principles such as confession, forgiveness, compassion and mercy. The format is a combination of lecture and class participation. All ages are welcome as we seek together to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ and with the body of believers.

Pathways | Zoom | 10:00 AM

Teachers: Jim and Janie Worth, jcworth@gmail.com, jsworth@gmail.com

How does the Bible guide us in our daily lives? Join this small group Bible study class (leadership is done by group members) to learn ways in which God's Word applies in all aspects of our lives, from family relationships to work issues and everything else.

Connections | Zoom | 10:00 AM

Teachers: Boxy Hornberger and Trebes Sasser - Contact Charlotte Milner with questions or at charlottebellmilner@gmail.com.

We seek to understand more fully the practicality and relevance of God's word to our lives. We seek to connect more deeply to the Word and to each other as we read and discuss scripture.

Young Adults Class Zoom | 10:00 AM

Contact: Carrie Everson, carriee@fpcsat.org; Kevin
Delano, kevin_delano@live.com
Are your thoughts holding you captive? Do you struggle with negative thinking that steals your joy? If so, this six-week study by Jennie Allen entitled "Get Out of Your Head" is for you! Based on the book of Philippians, this series will inspire and equip us to submit our minds to Christ and experience greater freedom from our thoughts.

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School will meet on Zoom at 10:00 AM for all students grade 6-12. Visit our FPC Youth Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter page @fpcsayouth or visit fpcsanantonio. org/youth for updates.

Email Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org or Emily Yergler at emilyy@fpcsat.org for more information.

Children's Sunday School

Contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org for more info or to join the Private Facebook Group.

Youth Virtual Mission Trip

July 20 - 24

The youth will be able to serve locally and globally! Two projects will include the KRL at FPC and AMO Mexico. If your teenager would be interested in participating, please contact Alex at alexc@fpcsat.org! (See article page 12 for more info.)

Virtual VBS

Monday - Friday | July 27 - 31

We'll have Bible stories, music, games, crafts and snacks all from a VBS kit that will be available for pick up upon payment and registration. (Pick-up

locations will vary) Registration is open to children 4 years old to 5th grade. Each VBS kit is \$10.

We also need teen and adult volunteers to help with kit assembly, to be host home helpers, and maybe even to star in one or two videos.

For more info, please contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org. Go to fpcsanantonio.org/vbs2020 to register.

Virtual Office Hours

The Church Offices remain closed to the public to help maintain a healthy and safe environment. However, you can still reach us by calling (210) 226-0215 during our (virtual) office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM or by emailing your ministry leader.

Submissions Needed for Upcoming WOC Cookbook

Women of the Church will be publishing a cookbook to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our Church. We encourage you to share your favorite recipes. There are no limits to the number of recipes submitted, provided we don't have ten of the same dish! Please direct your creations to our wonderful Cookbook Chair, Judy Kruger at: judykruger@sbcglobal.net.

Connect through Podcasts

FPC is releasing one episode each week for Pastor Bob's No Fear Podcast and the Scripture & Song Podcast. Please listen, subscribe and share God's promises of strength and comfort. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/podcasts for more information.

LOVING THE WORLD

Dominican Republic

Global Missions Makes Virtual Impact

ver the past months the COVID-19 pandemic altered plans operations across the globe. Though this season has been challenging in many ways, it has also opened up new avenues for us to connect with our Global Mission Partners in some new ways.

Carrie Everson, Director Young Adults and Young Women's Ministries at FPC, was excited to lead a team to the Dominican Republic to partner with El Cercadillo, a community where Food for the Hungry is currently investing and working. As the pandemic hit, we quickly realized it would not be feasible to take this trip in June. The team was so disappointed, and thought they would have to wait another year to go.

Though the team was unable to go to the DR in person, the Holy Spirit continued to move as the idea for a Virtual Mission Trip was born. The staff from Food for

the Hungry were excited about this opportunity and planning began. On Wednesday, June 10, a team of 15 people "traveled" to the Dominican Republic via Zoom to meet and connect with Food for the Hungry staff as we learned about the ministry and the El Cercadillo community. The evening was a great success and encouragement to all who attended!

The group received a traditional Dominican recipe for tostones (fried plantains) that the team was able to make in their homes as they shared a virtual "meal" together. As the team enjoyed this meal, they were able to hear from Food for the Hungry staff as they told stories of God's faithfulness and how He is moving and bringing about holistic, gospel-centered transformation in the community of El Cercadillo. It was a beautiful time of laughter, sharing, and learning more about the work of Food for the Hungry. Another highlight was the testimony from Carlos, a local staff member





with Food for the Hungry in the DR. He shared his story of growing up in a community where FH was working, and about his relationship with a family from the U.S. who sponsored him.

church has the opportunity to come alongside someone like Carlos and see them grow into a phenomenal leader for God's Kingdom. We are excited to continue to partner with Food for the Hungry and look forward to a time when we are able to travel to El Cercadillo in person!

To learn more about El Cercadillo and upcoming ways to connect and serve, contact Carriee@fpcsat.org or Lindsays@fpcsat.org.



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ith the impact of Covid-19 effecting all areas of our lives this year, the church's role as an essential evangelical presence of spiritual inspiration and support is becoming more crucial each day. As a result, First Pres has responded!

In May, after internal meetings and strategic evaluation of needs, your Session approved a landmark initiative to bring FPC to the forefront of real-time livestreaming. Partnering with San Antonio Sound and Light and adopting an aggressive timeline, the Communications team implemented and added state-of-the-art equipment, technology and human resources, and rolled out our new format for both Traditional and Contemporary services for quality, real-time viewing.

In light of continued challenges to having on-site services, our livestream provides a platform for Covenant Partners, and anyone seeking God's grace, to remain in touch and active with our church, pastors and ministries.



New sound board technology for the Sanctuary was added as part of our livestream initiative.

Covenant Hall & Vimeo

Along with these improvements, feeds to Covenant Hall for overflow situations were also installed, and FPC adopted a new video platform called Vimeo, providing improved audio/visual quality for online viewing.

Livestream Upgrades Bring New Platform for FPC Outreach & Ministry

HANK CHERRY
Director of Communications



State-of-the-art cameras discreetly positioned and controlled remotely provide crisp, quality video from both venues

Sanctuary

In our Sanctuary, we have resurrected use of the loft side-camera closet, equipping it with a two-man recording station to orchestrate feeds from three discreetly-mounted video cameras and the sound board microphones. Graphics and text overlays utilizing Pro Presenter software are also used during the broadcast. Both the livestream and audio/visual booth personnel maintain constant contact by headset communications. A new sound board was also purchased and installed to replace the old unit in the loft sound booth.

Westminster Hall

In Westminster Hall, two mounted cameras along the back wall are used with the same process. The recording room, stationed in the administrative offices area, utilizes an identical system and software to stream our 11:02 Contemporary Service live.



Computer upgrades in Westminster Hall's A/V Booth (above) and new broadcasting desk (below) provide improved visual presentation online and onsite.



Media Coordinator Ross Brown leads livestream recording sessions for both the 11:02 Contemporary Service (booth pictured above) and the Traditional Service.



Covenant Partners can access Sunday morning services live or on-demand through our new Vimeo platform any time or through YouTube.

Livestream **Access Options**

You have numerous ways to enjoy FPC's services remotely: by computer, mobile device, or – most optimally – home television. Services can be watched live, or "on demand" afterward.

Here are options and guidelines for accessing **Sunday Services:**

Website: Both services are available in real time in the video block in the middle of the Traditional and Contemporary Service pages where you can view the services as well.

Mobile App: The home screen has a graphic you can click to view either of our services within the app.

Eblast: Each Sunday morning, an eblast is sent to our entire email database, reminding you of that Sunday's services and providing a link to the videos on the website.

Home Smart TV: Using the Internet navigation on your TV, access fpcsanantonio.org, click the designated link to either service, and then click the full screen view option!

Streaming Device with TV (Roku, Fire, Apple TV, etc.): Subscribe to our church's channel on YouTube or Vimeo for quick weekly access to watch the service through either the YouTube or Vimeo apps.

Despite our continued challenges to spreading the Word, First Pres will continue to persevere and be a beacon to our community to Love Christ, Love One Another, and Love the City!

The Exciting Children's Committee: Needs You!

ROZLYN MILLER

Ministry Director to Children and their Families



re you looking for somewhere to serve in the church? Are you interested in gathering with believers who believe Ministry begins at home in the cradle? Look no further! We invite you to be part of the team on Children's Committee. Our committee gathers once a month to discuss projects, programs, upcoming events, curriculum, outreach, and families. Our mission is to shine Jesus on all kids who enter FPC, from age 0 to 5th grade! Sure, we get to do fun, great things such as Vacation Bible School, Parent's Night Out, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, PJ's and Pancakes, and more! But you will find that each one of our committee members has a passionate heart for Jesus and His church body as a unit. It's a committee made up of people who want to love the children and their families. These individuals want to grow disciples and nourish spiritually the least among us. I would love for you to partner with us, and I'm asking for your time and commitment, which is essential for sustaining a strong, connected church. If the Holy Spirit is talking to you, call me today. We can't wait to meet you! You are loved, praying for you and God's will.





REV. DR. JOE MOOREMinister for older adults and congregational care.

o you remember when Zoom was associated with getting somewhere fast or a noise that we made playing with cars and trucks with our kids and grandkids. Today it has a whole new meaning for us and we are thankful for the opportunities we have had to stay connected.

Who knew we could come together and learn about one-room school houses of the 1800's or the history of our American Flag, or enjoy some good clean comedy and at least feast our eyes on the sweet gold of Vermont Maple Syrup?

Looking forward to some great times together in July. In the works are a visit from a historical figure, information on keeping fit, and a visit with a local police officer.

Remember, if you need to continue your driver discount you can go to the AARP website and look for the online Driver's Safety course. You can register for the class and will have 60 days to complete it.

I hope you are continuing to take advantage of the Sunday Morning online services and many other offerings throughout the week. The switch to online streaming has not been as seamless as we hoped, but we are working hard to improve our presentations each week. Beginning July 5, you are invited to join me in our Zoom Room to view the service together and connect with each other on Sundays.

Praying that you and your families are safe and well.

Keep On Trusting!! - Ioe







FIRST CUP READINGS JULY, 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 Jeremiah 31:27-34: Romans 11
- 2 Lamentations 1; Isaiah 1; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14
- 3 Lamentations 2; Matthew 23; 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- 4 Lamentations 3:1-36; Matthew 5:39; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10: Psalm 123

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not: As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Hymns for the Family of God, #98)

- 5 Lamentations 3:37-66: Job 30: Psalm 37
- 6 Genesis 19:1-29; Lamentations 4; Jeremiah 19:9; Matthew 24:1-35
- 7 Lamentations 5: Isaiah 49: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
- 8 Luke 1:1-25; John 1:1-34
- 9 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Genesis 17:19; Psalm 132:11-18: Galatians 3:16
- 10 Luke 2:1-20: Colossians 1:15-23: Isaiah 43:1-3: 45:22
- 11 Leviticus 12; Luke 2:21-40; Isaiah 42:1-9; 8:13-17; John 10:11; Psalm 23

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free. From our sins and fears release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry 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. (Worship in Song, #181)

- 12 Micah 5:1-5; Matthew 2
- 13 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 14 Luke 3:1-22; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; 16:15-16; Acts 1:5, 2:38-41
- 15 Luke 3:23-4:13; Deuteronomy 6:13-19; Hebrews 2:10-18; 4:14-16; 1 Peter 5:5-10
- 16 Isaiah 40:1-11; 52:7; 61:1-3; Luke 4:14-21; John 16:13-15
- 17 Luke 4:22-30; 10:13-16; John 1:9-14; 15:18-16:4
- 18 Luke 4:31-37; Deuteronomy 32:17; Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 10:18; John 12:27-50

Out in the highways and byways of life, Many are weary and sad. Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, Making the sorrowing glad. Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love; tell of His power to forgive. Others will trust Him if only you prove True every moment you live. Give as 'twas given to you in your need; Love as the Master loved you. Be to the helpless a helper indeed; unto your mission be true. Make me a blessing: Make me a blessing. Out of my life may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing, O Saviour, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone today. (Worship in Song, #342)

- 19 Luke 4:38-44; Psalm 103
- 20 Luke 5:1-11; John 12:20-26; 1 Peter 2:11-15; Psalm 32
- 21 Numbers 12; 2 Kings 5; Luke 5:12-26; Psalm 147:3
- 22 Luke 5:27-32; John 15:18-27; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; James 4:4; 1 John 3:13-15
- 23 Luke 5:33-39; Leviticus 16:29-31; Joel 2:12-14; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Matthew 6:16-18
- 24 Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 5:17-20; Luke 6:1-11
- 25 Psalm 7; Luke 6:12-36; Proverbs 16:7; Romans 12:17-21

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power; He is able, He is able, He is willing; doubt no more. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him: This He gives you, this He gives you; 'Tis the Spirit's glimmering beam. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and mangled by the Fall; If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all; Not the righteous, not the righteous; Sinners Jesus came to call. (The Baptist Hymnal, #241)

- 26 Luke 6:37-45; Romans 2; 14; James 4:11-12; Matthew 18:15-35
- 27 Luke 6:46-49; James 2:14-26; John 15:1-17
- 28 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:1-37; Luke 7:1-17; Jeremiah 32:17-27; Psalm 107:20-22
- 29 Psalm 38; Luke 7:36-50; Psalm 32
- 30 Luke 8:1-18; Psalm 119:1-16; 89-112; James 1:22-25
- 31 Psalm 119:33-88; Luke 8:19-21; John 14:15-21

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).



Date	Name of Person	Request	God's Answer

STUDENT VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP

ALEX CLARY

Ministry Director to Youth & their Families

he youth ministry team has been working hard continue to minister to our teenage students during this time. In an effort to equip the students to serve their community and the kingdom of God during the summer, the youth ministry will be participating in a virtual mission trip the week of July 20-24. Throughout the week, students will partner with several FPC Mission Partners to discover, develop and deploy their gifts.

As this mission week has moved to an online format, the youth will be able to serve locally and globally! Two projects will include the KRL at FPC and AMO Mexico. As the students serve through the KRL, they will meet to assemble hygiene bags for our neighbors in downtown San Antonio. These bags will be handed out through the KRL as our neighbors continue to be connected with our partners in the KRL, seeking holistic transformation of their lives.



Through AMO Mexico, the FPC Youth will join in on ZOOM calls to help teach English to children in the Oaxaca region

of Mexico, with the hope that relationships will be formed to share the gospel with the children. Chris and Francelia McReynolds, directors of AMO Mexico, shared their excitement for the opportunity for AMO students to build gospel-centered relationships as they learn from and connect with the FPC Youth!

Other engagements with local missions agencies are in the works as well. Our prayer is the students will be stirred by the Spirit to share the love of Christ to those in need, both locally and abroad. We ask that you pray for our team and for our students. If your teenager would be interested in participating, please contact Alex at alexc@fpcsat.org!

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LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

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