



FIRST PRESS

MAY 2020

Children's Easter Ministry in the midst of social-distancing.

[See pages 6-7]

Virtual Easter Egg Hunt.

[There are 30 Easter eggs hidden throughout this magazine.

Can you find them all?]

Love Christ.

Prayer Opportunities and Scripture Reading plans are now online!

[See article page 5 and First Cup Readings & Prayer List on pages 14-15]

FPC is Loving Our City through COVID Outreach.

[See opportunities and testimonies on pages 9-11]



Rhythms



Rev. Becky Prichard
Associate Pastor for
Christian Education

Can you believe that we are already in the 5th month of the new decade? I think it is safe to say that this year has not gone the way that any of us thought it would. One thing is for sure, we have had to learn a lot more than we ever cared to know about technology and epidemiology in the past few months!

As we have had to discover this new way of life, what I like to call the “new abnormal”, we have all developed new rhythms in the way that we live and operate, and in our interactions with family as we have practiced social distancing. Our morning routines look drastically different as we are no longer rushing out the door for work or school, sitting in traffic or shoving down breakfast in the car. We have not had to run from work to sports practices to Bible Studies to homework time, cramming everything in before bedtime and

then finally collapsing into bed at the end of the day exhausted and distracted. Although this “new abnormal” feels, at times, as if we’ve entered a slower pace, it somehow feels just as exhausting as we deal with the emotional stress of the pandemic, the anxiety of going to the grocery store, and the restlessness from being stuck at home.

We have had to develop new rhythms in our routines, and for me it has frankly been difficult to keep up with from day to day. But as we look ahead to the *new true normal* when all this calms down, there will certainly be an adjustment period as we reenter it. The “old normal” from before the pandemic and the “new abnormal” of social distancing will collide into our new normal, and we as families and individuals will have to establish new rhythms once again.

As we anticipate yet another transition in this season, I am reminded of a sacred practice called “Rule of Life.”

A Rule of Life is a practice of rhythms in life when it comes to spirituality, relationships and vocation and how we can best live into the life that God is calling us to live. As followers of Christ, our hope is to live in a way that honors and glorifies God and to keep God at the center of our lives. A Rule of Life is a way to center our rhythms of life on God and implement sustainable ways that we can do that as individuals and families.

Our desire is to live intentionally into who God is calling us to be.

This practice began in the monastic tradition, and it was utilized to form community life and give rhythm to prayer and work, and how the monks interacted in community with one another. There were daily, weekly and seasonal rhythms to help guide life with God.

If you are like me, you might get caught on the word “rule” and think this is some sort of strict or legalistic schedule or guideline for living. But rather, a metaphor often used for a rule of life is a trellis on which a grapevine grows. The grapevine does not have a lot of support in and of itself and for the fruit to grow it needs a trellis for support and to give shape to the vine. Jude Tiersma Watson, a professor at Fuller Seminary, describes it like this, “Rule of life is like a trellis in our lives. The trellis never changes us, so it’s not the rule that changes us... it provides the space, structure, and support for us to build those things (spiritual practices and disciplines) into our lives for the transformation to happen.”

As we grow into the people God has called us to be, we need support in our lives, like the trellis, so that we can bear fruit for the glory of God. This is where the Rule of Life comes in and can be helpful as we navigate this new season during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

So, as we continue in this abnormal



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season and look forward to what life will be like in three, six or twelve months, let us re-center and refocus on our daily, weekly and seasonal rhythms with God and one another. May we look at our schedules differently, reorder what is important to us, and practice a spiritual rhythm both personally and with our families.

Here are a few questions that Fuller Seminary asks students when writing their Rule of Life. I hope you will consider them as you think about rhythms in your own life: How are you enacting rhythms in your or your family's life right now (spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically)? Do you have practices or habits that diminish your capacity to live into your calling from God? What practices or rhythms sustain you and draw you closer to God and others in a healthy way?

I encourage you to take some time and sit down either alone or with your family and reflect on some of the practices or rhythms in your life that help you flourish. Keep in mind, these can be spiritual, physical, or practical. Maybe it is finding your safe place to read Scripture and spend time in prayer daily or weekly.

Maybe it is waking up early to exercise and spend some time alone. Or maybe it is turning off your cell phone by 8:00pm every night and reading a book. Maybe it is eating an unhurried dinner with your family in the evenings and slowing down to enjoy conversation. Or maybe it is having some fun by playing a game with your kids and laughing together.

As you reflect on these things, begin writing them down and looking for ways you can implement them more regularly and be intentional about where you spend your time and energy. There is no right or wrong answer when writing a Rule of Life, and it does not have to be lengthy. Just three or four simple elements that shape and support your life with God. It is a practice of listening to God and letting God guide you as you express these rhythms in your daily or weekly life as you are drawn closer to Him.

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children." – Deuteronomy 4:9

- REV. BECKY PRICHARD

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Online Weekly Service

Date/time: Sundays beginning at 11:00 AM

Location: www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We look forward to the time when we can see you in person again. During this season we will be having one Sunday service online at 11:00 AM each week. We hope you will join us at www.fpcsanantonio.org/media to hear the message of hope and grace in Christ Jesus.

Call the Church (210) 226-0215

No one is physically at the church as we are honoring the stay in place order. However, you can still reach us by calling during our (virtual) office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

Virtually Connect with FPC's Ministries

Ministries are still happening! We want to connect with you and continue to be the body of Christ in this unique time.

Care & Prayer

- Care and Concern Line is still active at 210-222-CARE (210-222-2273).
- Request prayer and access the church prayer list at www.fpcsanantonio.org/prayerwall.

Children

- Join the Private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2360593870898523/>).
- Zoom Bible Studies: High Five (5th Grade) on Wednesdays at 2PM and 1st-4th Grade on Thursdays at 2PM
- Parents, contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org.

University

- Zoom Bible studies Sundays at 5PM and Wednesdays at 7PM.
- Instagram @fpc_umin., Twitter @fpc_umin & Facebook (www.facebook.com/2TenSATX).
- Email alexs@fpcsat.org.

Young Adults

- Contact Carrie at carrie@fpcsat.org to get connected to the FPC Young Adult GroupMe chat.
- Contact Mitchell Moore at mitchellm@fpcsat.org or Carrie Everson at carrie@fpcsat.org for more info.

KEYS: Older Adults

- 10:30 AM Thursday Coffee Hour on Zoom.
- KEYS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FPC-Keys-816185838756355)
- Private Facebook Group: contact joem@fpcsat.org to get info on how to join.
- Contact Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for more information

Youth

- Instagram @fpcsayouth and Facebook (www.facebook.com/fpcsayouth)
- FPC Youth webpage www.fpcsanantonio.org/youth
- Email Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org, Emily Yergler at emilyy@fpcsat.org, or Mac at mccalebt@fpcsat.org.

Missions

- COVID Outreach webpage (www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach)
- FPC Missions Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/fpcmissions)
- Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/global-missions for the most recent updates from our Local & Global Ministry Partners.
- Contact Lindsay Selli at missions@fpcsat.org for more information.

Have A Need ?

Need help grocery shopping? Need someone to pray with you? Want someone to call? Need help accessing worship services or classes online? Volunteers with FPC's Have a Need/Fill a Need program are ready to help!

We will:

- Pick up and deliver your groceries or medicines (you can reimburse us when we leave them at your door)
- Call you pray with you
- Call you just to talk
- Help you download the mobile App, log-on to hear a Podcast or watch online Worship.

You are not alone. Your FPC Family is here for you. Let us help! Go to <https://fpcsanantonio.org/fill-a-need/> to sign-up and a volunteer will contact you shortly.

Want to make a difference in our neighborhood and community? Sign up for our COVID Outreach at <https://bit.ly/2XXYLqI>.

Volunteers for DivorceCare Ministry at FPC

DivorceCare is continuing virtually! Have you been separated or divorced? Have you learned valuable lessons and experienced healing from the hurt? Would you like to help others do the same? Then please call or email to learn more about the different volunteer opportunities with our DivorceCare ministry.

Contact Butch Gerfers, (210) 862-9998, gerfers@flash.net.





Bob's No Fear Podcast

Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We all need grace and encouragement in times like this. To share the good news of Jesus Christ in anxious times, Sr. Pastor Bob Fuller will be sharing a message of hope and victory through the "No Fear" podcast episodes on the FPC San Antonio Podcast Channel.

In this upbeat broadcast, he will share a short devotional passage and report on important news related to the FPC community. The podcast will be posted each Tuesday and Thursday.

Scripture & Song Podcast

Date: Two times/week
www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

Pastor Mitchell Moore and Contemporary Worship Leader Callan Brown are recording short scripture and song reflections to encourage us, and those episodes can be found on the same FPC San Antonio Podcast Channel.

Please listen, subscribe and share God's promises of strength and comfort.

Music @ First Podcast

Date: Wednesdays
www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

Podcast host and Director of Music for FPC, Tom Dooling, explores the background and inspiration of the music used in worship at FPC. Released on Wednesdays, this podcast will both inform and inspire all that listen!

Pray with FPC

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Psalm 51:12

This is Downie Mickler, your Prayer Ministry Committee (PMC) chair. I don't know about you, but I need saving pretty much every day. So, I ask the Lord, "Save me Jesus. Replace my discouragement with joy. Sustain me. Lord, give me a willing spirit." How about you? I also forget easily and need reminders! How about you?

Today, take a moment to set your phone alarm to sound at NOON everyday and label it PRAY. Download Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter and follow @fpcsanantonio. There's a beautiful daily prayer from members of the PMC posted daily by Dorothy Hecimovich. It will give you words to say when you don't have any right at that moment. We are grateful to all the work Dorothy, Hank Cherry and Ross Brown do to help us connect with the Lord and one another.

Also, we have created our very own FPC Virtual Prayer Room. You guessed it! Below is the ZOOM link & phone number you can call to receive prayer every Wednesday from 11am-12pm. Please don't hesitate to ask for prayer. Prayer is effective, not because of the great men & women who pray well, but because of a great God who in Christ graciously hears his people. Lots of Love!

Here is the log in information for the **FPC Virtual Prayer Room** each Wednesday from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Join through Computer

Topic: FPC Prayer Room
 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/2S1jS7X>

Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302
 Password: 727274

Join through Phone

Dial by your location
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302
 Password: 727274

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



STAFO Virtual Info Meeting

Date: Sunday, May 3 – 2:00-3:00 PM

The South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO) will be hosting a Virtual Informational Meeting online to address ways you can help and be part of the foster care system in this time of great need, and support the "silent victims" – our children and youth - affected by the Covid-19 crisis in our community. View message by Executive Director Jennifer Smith here: <https://vimeo.com/407591553>. For more info or to register go to <https://bit.ly/2VuswO8>.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

HOLY WEEK & NOW

Easter Event & Holy Week

Our online Easter program was a wonderful success! We had many tune in and many share the event with friends! Holy week was full of wonderful surprises for the kids, including home drive-bys to families, and a special lesson on Palm Sunday to kick things off, with help from Tripp Womack and Kennedy Crider; readers in our Palm Sunday Holy Week in a Box lesson! The home drive-bys were done by members of the Children's committee and it is my pleasure to thank all the volunteers who helped pull that off last month! We reached over 65 kids with 7 teams covering 20 zip codes in San Antonio!! As we navigate the waters of social distancing, I told the kids that nothing will stop us from praising our risen Savior!



What is Happening Now

Weekly the kids from FPC gather in mid-week Bible study on Zoom; 5th grade on Wednesdays, and 1-4th grade on Thursdays. This gives the students a chance to connect to their church family and interact with God's word. Additionally, the kids have weekly Sunday School lessons posted on the private Facebook Group for Children's Ministry. Please contact me if you are interested in ways your child might join, or if you know of a family who could benefit from the Bible studies or Sunday school. This is an excellent time to invite people to church, even online! Our wonderful teachers take turns reading to the 2's & 3's over video each week. It has been such a blessing to see the kids and families come together in many different ways even though we are physically apart.

Praise be to God who makes all things new and who will not share His glory with another! We will continue to worship and learn together as the children and families of FPC participate in our mission to love Christ, love one another, and love the city.

ROZLYN MILLER
Ministry Director to Children and their Families



SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AT HOME FROM YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello parents!

As I am sure you have experienced, students are dependent on you and your family more now than ever before. Along with providing food and entertainment, you also are now expected to be school teachers, tutors, scientists and answer their endless questions about this unique time! We know this can be stressful, and you are doing a great job.

Along with these new roles you may be learning, believe it or not, you are also an example to your student in your walk with Jesus. Teenagers are constantly watching the adults around them to learn from them- they learn from observing others. We do not want this to be a source of stress, but rather excitement! How blessed we are to guide our families in a Christ-like way during this time.

Know that we have resources, guides, devotions, and encouragement for your family that we would love to provide for you as you continue to disciple your teenage student. Our weekly Bible Study information is emailed every Monday, and our weekly parent resource guide is emailed every Tuesday afternoon. While our avenues of ministry have changed, our efforts and the Kingdom of God have not! We are still hard at work to see Jesus become real in our ministry, and we invite your family to take part as well. Please contact us at alexc@fpcsat.org for more information.

ALEX CLARY

Ministry Director to Youth and their Families



Wednesdays
May 13 - August 5

Morning Support Group from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Evening Support Group from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Led by Pastor Joe Moore, GriefShare is a weekly grief recovery support group, currently meeting online to help you find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Register online at www.griefshare.org/groups/121715 (morning group) or www.griefshare.org/groups/121716 (evening group).



GLOBAL MISSIONS SUPPORT CONTINUES AMIDST CRISIS



While there are serious challenges in our lives, as we adapt to changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are also opportunities to celebrate. God is using the obstacles and limitations we face to deepen relationships, provide creative opportunities for the way we do ministry, and open hearts to receive and proclaim His gospel message.

We at FPC have a great heritage in mission, locally and globally, and while we find ourselves unable to join our partners to serve in person, we are learning new ways to serve

and build deeper relationships with them. Recently, we have been able to spend time with several of our Global Mission Partners over Zoom video conference calls. We have been able to learn about how this pandemic has affected them and their various regions, as well as the new ways they are continuing to serve within their communities.

We have learned that gospel-centered, educational ministries, like Proyecto Amistad (Mexico), and AMO (Latin America and the Caribbean), are continuing to provide access to curriculum with a gospel centered worldview, while equipping

and empowering current and future leaders. We have heard about the creative ways that churches, like Pastor Delfils' church in Haiti, are continuing to meet to hear and study the Word through Facebook livestreams and WhatsApp text groups. We have learned about the equipping and encouragement leaders across North Africa are continuing to receive as Ashraf Abdou and the YWAM North Africa Team partner with them. We are celebrating the work that YPM has been doing to continue work on the Clean Water building. Additionally, they are able to provide online education to students through the YPM Institute, as well as Biblical teaching and worship through several leaders in the Yucatan region. We have heard praise for the sense of unity and support that is felt through partnership. We are humbled and grateful to co-labor with our FPC Global Missions Partners, who have searched, prayerfully, for opportunities through the great challenges this global pandemic has presented.

As we have spent time over Zoom, we have felt the gap left from isolation close a little, and seen how God is moving through the global Church even as we are separated for a time. As there is much to celebrate through our partnerships in this season, there is also a real need for us to join in prayer.

Please join us in prayer for the specific needs below.

- Pray for the safety and health of our Global Mission Partners around the world.
- Pray for AMO to be introduced into new homes through online training opportunities.
- Pray for communities that are struggling because of decreased wages or loss of income.
- Pray for children who are unable to receive education because of closed schools and lack of access to online resources.
- Pray for security and healing in Haiti, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing political tension.
- Pray for the Haitian Church as they experience more challenges in connecting with one another.
- Pray for this to be an opportunity for people to know the Lord more fully.
- Pray for wisdom as our ministry partners navigate opportunities through their ministries in different ways.
- Pray with Pars for strength and wisdom for their team of counselors as they increase the therapy and pastoral support offered to students at this delicate time.
- Pray for ways that our FPC Family can continue to collaborate to encourage and empower our Global Mission Partners.

To continue to learn about ways to pray with and for our FPC Ministry Partnerships, please email your cell number to lindsays@fpcsat.org. If you are interested in connecting with one of our Global Mission Partners, or would like to learn about upcoming Zoom calls, please email missions@fpcsat.org.

COVID OUTREACH CONCERT



Contemporary Worship Leader Callan Brown serenaded the staff of Methodist Hospital to encourage them as they work on the frontlines of this pandemic. The concert was broadcast throughout the hospital so workers could enjoy the concert from each of their departments. The afternoon was made even "sweeter" by members of the Fill A Need Volunteer group who dropped off chocolates donated by Kilwins Chocolates.





COVID OUTREACH

www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach

During this time of social distancing, we are given great opportunity to be the Church outside of the walls of FPC. Our community has great needs, but God has a greater plan for His kingdom. We are able to partner with God in this unique time by giving, volunteering, and praying. Part of our mission as a church is to Love our City: learn below about ways you may serve, and check our continually updated list of opportunities at www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach.



Ann Bunn helping FPC work toward our goal of 1,000 masks for local medical professionals.



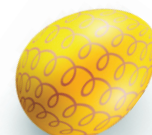
Morgan Fuller helps deliver masks an FPC covenant partner made.

- Sew Masks to Love Our City: Participate, through Threads of Love by providing masks for medical workers at local hospitals. Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach for kit Assembly Instructions and Sewing Instructions. You may sign up at <https://bit.ly/2yDsN8p> or email missions@fpcsat.org for more information. You can participate by:

- ***Making and assembling kits*** by cutting fabric and ribbons (all materials will be supplied if needed). Kit Assembly Instructions (<https://bit.ly/3bwrZAS>)
- ***Sewing masks***
 - Sewing Instructions (<https://bit.ly/2VNmAPu>)
 - If you already have materials that you would like to use and do not need a kit, you are invited to begin sewing now. Please download and review both the Kit Assembly Instructions and Sewing Instructions if you will not be using a pre-assembled kit.
- ***Delivering kits*** to volunteers, or completed masks to Threads of Love who will handle the distribution to hospitals.
- ***Donating materials*** for masks



- Childcare for Medical Professionals: Many medical professionals are in need of childcare solutions as schools and childcare centers have had to close their doors. If you would like to serve through babysitting the children of medical professionals, please contact Rick at Southwest General Hospital, 210-413-6230, who is working to coordinate babysitters to help their employees.



- Help FPC's New Foster Family: Help provide home school supplies and other needs for our new Foster Family by buying from their Amazon Wishlist (<https://amzn.to/3eLC2nF>). Contact tbmccaleb@gmail.com for more information about providing items & meals.

- Donate to Underserved Neighbors through CAM: The biggest need for our ministry partner, Christian Assistance Ministry, is funding to buy things for our neighbors like groceries, hygiene items, baby items, etc. You may also physically donate items. Go to christianassistanceministry.org for a full list of needs and to provide donations.

- Feed a Family Pizza with SA Heals: Make a donation to SA Heals at www.saheals.com to buy a pizza through local East Side business, Tanks Pizza, to feed a family during this time. Their goal is to provide 100 families with a free pizza every week. #tankspizza4families

- Fill Emergency Needs on the East Side: Partner with La Luz en El Barrio and Servant Partners by contacting mark.cloherty@servantpartners.org to coordinate hygiene & cleaning supply donations for dispersal to our East Side neighbors.

- Adopt a Teen Mom & Her Family: Contact YoungLives Coordinator, Christina Via, at 678-993-6146 or christinavia@gmail.com to be paired with a teen mom. Help provide encouragement through a card or letter and/or help supply her family's custom needs through groceries, food delivery, and/or care packages.



The SA Hope Center thanks FPC for the 22-lb chocolate bunny donated by Kilwins (San Antonio - Alamo). SA Hope Center has served over 20,000 individuals since March 16!

- Donate items to Catholic Worker House: As they continue to serve breakfast and lunch to over 300 people a day, six days a week, on the East Side. They are one of 3-4 hubs, including CAM, who are serving the homeless in the area. They are in need of several items:

- To Go Containers
- Plastic forks
- 10-12 oz. juice cups

- Pray for Neighbors and Ministry Partners: Sign up by emailing missions@fpcsat.org to receive email updates with specific prayer requests submitted by our ministry partners, so you can include our neighbors and ministry partners in your prayers.

- Join 9:38 Mission Text Line: email your number to lindsays@fpcsat.org to receive up to three prayer updates a week, as we pray with and for our ministry partners (local and global) and the city.

- Devotions for our Underserved Neighbors: we continue to see a need to provide encouragement, hope, and the truth through God's Word to our homeless and underserved neighbors. You are invited to write one or more devotionals that we can provide to our ministry partners who are on the frontlines serving our neighbors. We are looking to provide 2-3 single page devotionals per week. If you would like to provide a devotional, please contact missions@fpcsat.org.

- Get to Know our FPC Ministry Local Partners: Listen to our podcast SA Stories to learn more. <https://apple.co/3aufDrN>



FPC was able to bless the volunteers at CAM with an Easter lunch. We don't have photos, but we have been able to care for CAM, SA Hope, SA Heals, and Pay it Forward through providing lunches.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH MAY UPDATE

JUDY KRUGER

President, Women of the Church



Although we had to “shelter in place” in March and April to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, Women of the Church joyfully spread the love of Jesus from our homes. Some examples are:

- Two families in our church recently had babies; we were able to bless them with restaurant gift cards, diapers, and encouraging notes.
- Circle members have kept in touch and checked on each other.
- Several women organized drive-by celebrations for our pastors on Easter Sunday to encourage and let them know how much we appreciate them.
- Many helped by baking cookies and writing notes of encouragement for the staff at SW General Hospital.
- Many signed up as volunteers with the “Have A Need/ Fill A Need” program to help church members.

We now have these two opportunities for you to serve while you are still at home:

- We are collecting recipes for a WOC cookbook. Please email your favorite recipes to Judy Kruger (judykruger@sbcglobal.net).
- We are helping make masks for local hospitals. You can assemble kits, deliver kits, donate supplies, or sew masks. Supplies can be delivered to you, and completed kits/masks can be picked up from your home. You may sign up at <https://bit.ly/FPCMasks> or email missions@fpcsat.org.

We trust our mighty God and know that He holds our future securely. We hope to resume some of our WOC activities in May but as I write this, we are not sure when we will be able to. Until then...keep trusting Him, help with the needs listed above, and stay well.

Judy Kruger



KEYS UPDATE

REV. DR. JOE MOORE
Minister for Older Adults and
Congregational Care

Who would have thought that when we decided to cancel KEYS on March 13th that it would have lasted this long!! We continue to pray for families who have been affected by this virus through the loss of loved ones and jobs. Hoping that soon we will see an end!!

It has been great to connect with many of you through our Zoom KEYS Coffee Hour. I am proud of all of you who have learned how to use this very important tool. We will continue to meet together on Thursday Mornings via Zoom until we can meet together in person.



We have a backlog of speakers who are waiting to reschedule, and King Antonio is on board for a Fiesta Celebration in November.

If you were counting on the May AARP Driver Safety Course to continue your discount you can go to the [AARP website and look for the online course](#). You can register for the class and will have 60 days to complete it.

I hope you are taking advantage of the Sunday Morning online

videos and many other offerings throughout the week. We are working hard to improve our presentations each week.

From all the conversations I have enjoyed over the last few weeks, I believe that when we are finally able to meet, we will find that we are closer together than ever before.

Keep On Trusting!!
Joe



FIRST CUP READINGS MAY, 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 Colossians 1:1-14; Ephesians 5:1-20
- 2 Genesis 1; John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15-23

Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please Him in all that I do, Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, This is the pathway of blessing for me. Living for Jesus wherever I am, Doing each duty in His holy name, Willing to suffer affliction or loss, Deeming each trial a part of my cross! Living for Jesus thro' earth's little while, My dearest treasure, the light of His smile, Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem, Bringing the weary to find rest in Him! I own no other Master; My heart shall be Thy throne. My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone. (Worship in Song, No. 333)

- 3 Colossians 1:24-29; Romans 16:25-27; Ephesians 3:2-6
- 4 Colossians 2:1-23; Ephesians 2
- 5 Colossians 3:1-17; Ephesians 4:17-5:20
- 6 Colossians 3:18-4:18; Ephesians 5:21-6:20
- 7 Romans 1; Leviticus 18; Psalm 106
- 8 Romans 2; James 1:19-25; Matthew 7:1-5
- 9 Romans 3; Psalm 14; 5; Ephesians 1:3-14

Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine; Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight. Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine; Kindle every high desire; perish self in Thy pure fire. Holy Spirit, power divine, fill and nerve this will of mine; By Thee may I strongly live, bravely bear, and nobly strive. Holy Spirit, right divine, make my conscience wholly Thine; Be my law, and I shall be firmly bound, forever free. (The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 321)

- 10 Romans 4; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 6:28-40
- 11 Romans 5:1-11; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 Peter 4:12-19; James 5:10-11
- 12 Romans 5:12-6:23; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:8
- 13 Romans 7; 2 Samuel 11; Mark 14:26-38; 51-72; Psalm 32
- 14 Romans 8:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
- 15 Romans 8:18-39; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 118
- 16 Romans 9; Jeremiah 18; Isaiah 29:13-16; 64:5-9

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify; A never dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill; Oh, may it all my pow'rs engage To do my Master's will! Arm me with jealous care, As in Thy sight to live; And, oh, Thy servant, Lord, prepare A strict account to give! Help me to watch and pray, And on Thyself

rely, Assured if I my trust betray I shall forever die. (Worship in Song, No. 190)

- 17 Isaiah 65; Romans 10
- 18 Romans 11; Psalm 139
- 19 Romans 12; Leviticus 19:18; Proverbs 20:22; 1 Peter 2:11-25
- 20 Romans 13; Ephesians 5:11-13; 6:10-18
- 21 Romans 14; Psalm 34:14; Hebrews 12:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13
- 22 Romans 15-16; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:7-21
- 23 1 Peter 1; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:17-5:21

O Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end; Be Thou forever near me, My Master and my Friend: I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side, Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my Guide. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear; My foes are ever near me, Around me and within; But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin. O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still, Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will! O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control! O speak, and make me listen, Thou Guardian of my soul! (The Hymnbook, No. 307)

- 24 1 Peter 2:1-12; Romans 13:8-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; Psalm 65:1-4
- 25 1 Peter 2:13-3:22; Ephesians 5:22-6:9; 1 Thessalonians 5
- 26 1 Peter 4; Philippians 1:27-30; Revelation 2:10
- 27 Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-4; Matthew 9:36; John 10:1-18; 1 Peter 5
- 28 Matthew 17:1-8; 2 Peter 1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105; 2 Corinthians 4:6
- 29 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6; Jude
- 30 Matthew 24; 2 Peter 3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

O Lord, my inmost heart and thought Thy searching eye doth see; Wher-e'er I rest, wher-e'er I go, My ways are known to Thee. Each spoken word, each silent thought, Thou, Lord, dost understand; Before me and behind art Thou, Restraining by Thy hand. From Thee, O Lord, I cannot hide, Though darkness cover me; The darkness and the light of day Are both alike to Thee. Search me, O God, and know my heart, Try me, my thoughts to know; O lead me, if in sin I stray, In paths of life to go. (The Hymnbook, No. 129)

- 31 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 1 John 2:15-17; James 1:13-15

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).

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