



FIRST PRESS

SEPTEMBER 2020

FPC Global Missions
reaching the world
during COVID.

[See articles on pages 8-9 and 12-14]

Love One Another.

We are REUNITING in
on-site Sunday Services,
Classes, Groups, and
Studies!

*[See Save the Dates
pages 4-7]*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILS

CABOOSE
#22

**Redeeming the
Crisis is Coming**

[See Pastor's article page 2-3]

**Children's Ministry
celebrates successful
Virtual VBS & New Baby.**

[See Children's Ministry article pages 10-11]



Redeeming the Crisis



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Back in April, one of our elders, David West, challenged the leadership of our church with a question. In an email he wrote:

When our children and grandchildren ask “what did you do in the COVID-19 war, Daddy,” I want all of the members of FPC to have a ready answer.

That one question sparked a lot of conversation.

The needs following this crisis are going to be enormous, but they are not going to be bigger than God. The Lord has trusted this church with incredible resources for such a time as this.

In good Presbyterian fashion, the Session responded to David's question by putting together a task force to talk and pray about how we would address both the current crisis and its aftermath.

The task force would lead our congregation in both our short term and long term community response to this pandemic. We call the effort “**REDEEMING THE CRISIS.**”

“**REDEEMING THE CRISIS**” (**RTC**) and the task force that leads it will be focused on meeting both immediate needs and addressing long-term damage from COVID-19.

This is not an effort to do something on our own, but rather to work strategically and collaboratively with our mission partners to find the places where the best efforts can be applied. Much of what we do with **RTC** will build on well-established efforts. But **RTC** will also break new ground, addressing long-term needs created by the damage of the disease and the shut-down. We will be addressing issues related to mental illness, financial health, the impact on children in our community, the brokenness of families and marriages all while pursuing opportunities to move forward with the gospel by seeking out opportunities for church planting and kingdom growth.

RTC is not just an effort to give away money or to supply band-aids. This pandemic is a generational crisis and we are looking at this as a generational response. South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said “Rather than just pulling people out of the river, we need

to go up stream and find out why they keep falling into the river in the first place.”

David's question is a question for the church, but it is also personal. How is God calling *me* to *Love Christ, Love One Another, and Love the City* in this crisis?

One of our first steps in **REDEEMING THE CRISIS** is to gather information. First, we will gather information about *needs*. We will be asking you to complete a survey designed to gather information on you, your family, your contacts and your network. We are all feeling the weight of this pandemic and we want to listen to and learn one another's needs. As a church, we need to bring together the concerns, the fears, the opportunities and the stories we are hearing from our neighbors and our neighborhoods. We want to take the temperature and check the health of both our community and our own church family.

Second, we will gather information about *gifts*. We are going to inventory our congregation to assess the skills, resources, relationships, connections and spiritual gifts we can bring to bear for the sake of our community. Jesus said,

¹³ *Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ (Matthew 9:13)*

When it comes to the mission of God's Kingdom, the Lord wants us not only to give our

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resources (our sacrifices), He wants us personally involved in his work (mercy). We have already given emergency funds to many of our mission partners to help deal with some of the most immediate needs in San Antonio, particularly the needs of our homeless neighbors and those who have lost work. The Spiritual gift survey takes us to the next step, the step of personal investment, and will help us to learn how the Lord has designed and gifted each of us to show His mercy in this moment fpcsanantonio.org/gifts-survey.

You will be hearing a lot more about **REDEEMING THE CRISIS** from the **RTC** task force chair Teresa McCaleb and her team in the weeks to come. The Lord is summoning us to **REACH OUT** to our city, to **REACH IN** to one another and to **REACH UP** to the Lord Jesus Christ in Prayer and Worship. How has he equipped us to deal with the necessities of this specific moment? How has God prepared you through your own talents, experiences and passions to redeem this crisis? And when future generations ask, “*what did you do in the COVID-19 war,*” *how will we answer?*

- GRACE AND PEACE,

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.

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Weekly Sunday Services

Traditional Service: 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary & Online

Contemporary Service: 11:02 AM in Westminster Hall & Online

Online: www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We have resumed in-person worship today. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/reunion for reopening guidelines. We will continue streaming the 9:00 AM & 11:02 AM services live on our webpage fpcsanantonio.org/media. Please refresh your browser at the start of the live service to join in. A recorded version of each service will be available online immediately following the close of service. On-campus communion will resume on the First Sunday of each month beginning September 6.

- 9:00 AM - Traditional Service in Sanctuary & Online
- 10:00 AM - Sunday School Hour - Various Online & On-Campus options for Adults, Youth, and Children (starting September 13).
- 11:02 AM - Contemporary Service in Westminster Hall & Online

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: Call 210-222-CARE (210-222-2273) for current list. Email lisas@fpcsat.org to join the email list.
- Request prayer and pray for others online at fpcsanantonio.org/prayerwall.
- FPC Virtual Prayer Room meets Wednesdays on Zoom from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302 | Password: 727274

Children

- Parents, contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org for more information or to join the Private Facebook Group.

Missions

- Connect with our FPC Missions Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/fpcmissions).
- Visit fpcsanantonio.org/global-missions for the most recent updates from our partners.
- Join our 9:38 Mission Prayer Text line to receive weekly prayer updates. Email lindsays@fpcsat.org with your mobile number to join.
- Contact Lindsay Selli at missions@fpcsat.org for more information or to share ideas on how to help our community.

KEYS: Older Adults

- Friday Morning Zoom Meetings each week at 11:00 AM. Zoom ID 570 618 8075. No Password. This will be our weekly online meeting whether we have a scheduled speaker or not.
- Request to join our private Facebook Group or get more information by emailing joem@fpcsat.org.

University

- Email alexs@fpcsat.org if you need anything.
- Connect with us on Instagram & Twitter @fpc_umin & Facebook (www.facebook.com/2TenSATX).

Young Adults

- Watch fpcsanantonio.org/ya for updates.
- Contact Carrie at carrie@fpcsat.org or Mitchell Moore at mitchellm@fpcsat.org for more info.

Youth

- Hang out with us on Instagram @fpcsayouth and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fpcsayouth)
- Visit our FPC Youth webpage fpcsanantonio.org/youth for additional updates.
- Email Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org or shoot the Youth Ministry a DM to get more information.

Church Offices Open - Call (210) 226-0215

We have resumed our regularly scheduled business hours. The campus will be accessible by FPC members for necessary business and ministry. However, the doors will be locked. (Just call the staff receptionist to let them know you are here.)

Offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 7.

Children's Sunday Classes

On-Campus Options Begin Sept. 13

Nursery | 8:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Class: Nursery (Birth - 2 years)
Room: 101

Children | 8:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Children's Sunday Schools are also available online Sunday mornings on different platforms.

Class: 2s & 3s

On Campus Room: 116

Online: YouTube, Facebook and Email Links

Class: 4s - Kinder

On Campus Godly Play Room: 139

Online Godly Play: YouTube, Facebook and Email Links

Class: 1st - 4th Grade

On Campus Room: 135

Online: YouTube, Facebook and Email Links

Class: 5th Grade - High Five

On Campus Room: 132

Online: Zoom (live)

Sunday Classes on-Campus & Online

Adult and Youth Sunday classes are welcome to return to on-campus meeting at their leaders' discretion. Children's Sunday school will continue to be held online and will begin meeting both online and on-campus beginning September 13 (see page 4.)

Adults | 8:30 AM

Class: Pathways

Room: Zoom

Teacher/s: Jim Worth, jcworth@gmail.com and Janie Worth, jsworth@gmail.com

Adults | 10:00 AM

Class: Arthur Gray Jones

Room: 309

Teacher/s: Harry Schwethelm, Harry.Schwethelm@satx.rr.com, 210-826-5960

Class: Bridges

Room: Covenant Hall

Teacher/s: Rob Shelton, rshelton@genevaschooltx.org, 210-404-2556
Tom Benke, tbenke@sbcglobal.net, 210-355-3066

Class: Connections

Room: 224

Teacher/s: Boxy Hornberger and Trebes Sasser

Class Contact: Charlotte Milner, charlottebellmilner@gmail.com, 210-415-6704

Deanna Rickabaugh, dyrickabaugh@yahoo.com, 512-925-8759

Class: Discipleship Parenting

Room: 304

Teacher/s: Rev. Becky Prichard, beckyp@fpcsat.org, 210-271-2732

Description: Discover God's call for parents to lead and nurture their children spiritually. Parents with kids of all ages are welcome to attend!

Class: Exilic Experiences Beyond the Land of Milk and Honey (Six Week Class)

Room: 301

Teacher/s: Antonio Alvarez, testamentum@hotmail.com

Description: We will explore in depth the meaning and implications of exile in light of Israel's history and its various characters.

Class: First Class

Room: Zoom

Teacher/s: Chuck Bunn, chuck@bunnngroup.com, 210-413-2370
Pat Brodeen, pat@brodeen.com, 210-494-1534

Description: Study of the book of Daniel this fall.

Class: Foundations Marriage Class

Room: 302

Teacher/s: Bobby Mickler, 210-284-1496, bobby.mickler@gmail.com,
Downie Mickler downie@ankoledesigns.com
Court Allen, court.allen@pizarroallen.com
Amy Allen, amylhallen@gmail.com
Description: Learn and apply Biblical truth in the context of marriages and families.

Class: The Uncomfortables

Room: Zoom

Teacher/s: Neil Williams, nwilliams48@hotmail.com, 210-523-1653

Description: R. C. Sproul's "Essential Truths of the Christian Faith".

Class: Young Adult Class

Room: Room 300

Teacher/s: Carrie Everson, carrie@fpcsat.org

Description: We cover a number of topics and issues that most young adults face, searching the Bible for answers and guidance.

Youth | 10:00 AM

Class: 6th – 12th Grade, 8th Grade Confirmation

Room: Student Center and Zoom

Students are asked to enter through the playground side of the building and go directly upstairs.

Adults | 10:15 AM

Class: 30 Minutes Theology Class

Time: 10:15 – 10:45 AM

Room: Room 310

Teacher/s: Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

Contact: Eugene Garcia, eugeneg@hurjenterprises.com, 210-218-7203

Mike Charlton, charlton@uthscsa.edu, 210-682-8677

Description: This group is for new Christians, experienced Christians, seekers and anyone who likes to talk about the big questions of faith.

Virtual Prayer Room Wednesdays at 11:00 AM

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.

Here is the log in information for the **FPC Virtual Prayer Room** each Wednesday from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://bit.ly/2S1jS7X> | Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302 - Password: 727274

Sunday Evening Youth Fellowship

Begins Sunday, Sept. 13

Time TBD

Location: Various, TBD

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

Be on the lookout for fellowship opportunities in the fall with our Student Ministry! We will be meeting for meals, having socially distanced outdoor gatherings, and other fun fellowship opportunities on Sundays. Check our Instagram or contact Alex for more information.

Support Groups at FPC

DivorceCare

Dates: Wednesdays, September 9 - Dec. 9 | 6:00 PM

DivorceCare is a video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. Please feel free to connect with Butch Gerfers at 210-862-9998 or gerfers@flash.net, if you have any questions

Sign up at DivorceCare.org

GriefShare

Dates: Wednesdays, August 12 – November 4 | 6:30 PM

A 13 week video seminar and online support group to help you find and offer hope and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Contact Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for instructions on how to connect and for more info.

Sign up at GriefShare.org

Upcoming Studies & Groups

Virtual Financial Peace University (2 Class Options)

Sunday Evening Class
September 20 - November 15

Time: 4:00 PM

Register for Sunday Classes
fpu.com/1123167

Wednesday Evening Class
September 23 - November 18

Time: 6:30 PM

Register for Wednesday Classes
fpu.com/1123169

Location: Zoom

Contact: Morris Camp,
morriscamp@gmail.com,
210-573-4433

No more money stress—ever! It's possible when you know how to handle your finances. Join our virtual Financial Peace University class, and we'll learn how to dump debt and build wealth. You won't even have to leave home. And now, you can try Financial Peace free for 14 days!

Pastor's Bible Study Fall 2020

Thursdays | Begins Sept. 17 | 9:30 AM
FPC Sanctuary & Online

Revelation: One Vision...One Lord...One Future

2020 has been a year like no other, leading people to ask, "what is God doing?" In the early days of the church, the first followers of Jesus Christ asked the same question and God answered by giving an incredible vision to the exiled apostle John.

This fall the Pastor's Bible Study (PBS), led by Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, will grapple with the book of Revelation. Many people see the last book of the Bible as a futuristic preview of ominous warning. Revelation, however, is a book of hope for Christians of all centuries (not just the end times).

Join Bob on Thursday mornings beginning September 17 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.

If you have any questions or to be placed with a group please contact Lellen Lane at lellenlane@aol.com, or call Lellen at (210) 860-1395.

Reset Small Groups & Gatherings

Reset Gatherings

Mondays | 7:30 - 8:15 PM

9/28, 10/19 and 11/9

Westminster Hall & Livestream to

fpcsanantonio.org/event-video

Sign up for a group at
fpcsanantonio.org/reset

RESET: A ministry for university students and young adults. We launched our new RESET structure on August 31! We will meet monthly for large RESET gatherings and then twice a month in smaller RESET groups. These RESET groups will help you grow in your relationship with Christ as you walk with one another in fellowship and studying God's Word together. Join a group today! Your group leaders will contact you with details.

Contact Mitchell Moore (mitchellm@fpcsat.org), Carrie Everson (carriee@fpcsat.org), or Alex Solorio (alexs@fpcsat.org) for more details.

Music Ministry

Sanctuary Choir & Friday Singers

Contact: Tom Dooling,
tomd@fpcsat.org

Regular weekly rehearsals currently suspended due to Covid-19. Contact Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, for virtual/online opportunities.

Virtual Children's Choir

Time: 5:00 – 5:30 PM

Dates: Wednesdays beginning 9/16

Location: Zoom

Contact: Kathy Jamison,
kathyj@fpcsat.org

Children's Choir is a fun and exciting way for your kids to get involved, make friends, learn great lessons, and get the opportunity to perform! Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-choir.

Youth Midweek Studies are Back!

Middle School 5:30 – 6:30 PM

High School 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Student Center and Zoom

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

Description: Looking for a chance to fellowship and grow in God's Word through a small group setting? Join us each Wednesday to take part in our Midweek Bible Studies. Groups are sorted by grade and/or gender.

Save the Date for WOC Fall Events

September 11 - 175th Anniversary Cookbook Recipe Submission Deadline

September 28 - Fall Legacy Luncheon Westminster Hall & Virtual Option

October 20 - Ladies Night Out Locations will be announced

See [page 17](#) for more information about WOC upcoming events.

FPC Literature Circle

The FPC Literature Circle will not be meeting at the church this fall due to the COVID-19 virus. However, virtual reviews will be available on the church website, fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle, on a link much like watching our online church services each Sunday. The speakers will be recorded at the church. More information will be forthcoming about the date of each recorded book and the church website link as we receive it.

Our church librarian, Suzanne West, has ordered the new books for review (attached list) and are available immediately for your reading pleasure. She and a helper have volunteered to deliver a requested book to your home by calling her home phone (210-525-1499) requesting a particular book & leaving your, name, address, & phone number (on voice mail if not home). She will tell you what day her deliveries will be made, with the book in a plastic bag, by your FRONT DOOR. Suzanne will inform you of the return process.

We look forward to still being able to enjoy each speaker virtually. You will be notified via email of any changes to this information. If you do not want to be included in our email list or know someone that wants to be included, please notify me.

Blessings to all during this difficult time and thank you to Suzanne, her helper & Grace Clouse, our chair, in making these arrangements with the church.

Willie Willming, Publicity, ewillming@aol.com

Books for 2020-2021

- Sept. 8: A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE by Sonia Purnell,
Reviewer: Jane Hansen
- Oct. 13: DEAR AND GLORIOUS PHYSICIAN by Taylor Caldwell,
Reviewer: Rev. Becky Prichard
- Nov. 10: THE DUTCH HOUSE by Ann Patchett,
Reviewer: Jan Clayton
- Dec. 8: BEFORE WE WERE YOURS by Lisa Wingate,
Reviewer: Grace Clouse
- Jan. 12: THE SECRETS WE KEPT by Lara Prescott,
Reviewer: Martha Smith
- Feb. 9: LOVE LIKE A RIVER by Lila Cockrell,
Reviewer: Bill Hensley
- Mar. 9: HOMER'S ODYSSEY by Gwen Cooper,
Reviewer: Jane Hansen
- Apr. 13: DAUGHTER OF A DAUGHTER OF A QUEEN by Sarah Bird,
Reviewer: Ann Smith
- May 11: BECOMING MRS. LEWIS by Patti Callahan
Reviewer: Martha Smith

Pray at Noon

Today, take a moment to set your phone alarm to sound at NOON everyday and label it PRAY. Follow @fpcsanantonio on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter for the daily prayer. It will give you words to say when you don't have any right at that moment.

MISSION SOUTH COVID RELIEF

KATHY SCRUGGS

Mission South Taskforce Chair

Friends, I am pleased to share some good news with you from the Mission South Task Force. Given the unique and difficult circumstances that our brothers and sisters of South Texas and Mexico have faced in recent months due to COVID-19, our team participated in delivering financial help to those in need. A total of \$14,500 has been delivered to churches, pastors, families and ministries. In this brief report, I will share stories from three partners whose efforts made this possible.

Rev. Hector Reynoso is the pastor of Genesis Presbyterian Church in Mercedes, Texas. His father was a Presbyterian pastor and for many years taught at the Presbyterian Seminary in Mexico City. He met his wife Carmen, a native of Puerto Rico, when they were neighbors in Houston as young adults. They have been ministering in the Rio Grande Valley for over 20 years. In 2012 their church disaffiliated from the PCUSA and lost everything. Hector has many friends in ministry on both sides of the border. He gave us names of churches and pastors in South Texas and Mexico who were in need. We have been blessed to get to know Hector, Carmen, and their contacts; and we look forward to



Héctor, Carmen, and Bella Reynoso with members of MSTF visiting them on the site of the to-be-constructed Genesis Presbyterian Church in Mercedes, TX

Ladies coming to pick up food baskets at Casa MAMi.



serving together even as they break ground in 2021 for their new building.

Pastor Edgar González Terán is a Presbyterian minister in Mexico City, and has been serving churches throughout Mexico for over 30 years. He and his wife are delivering support to more than 10 families, many of whom have experienced the death of a family member due to COVID- 19.

Sister Elma Fonseca, founder director of CASA HOGAR MAMi in Reynosa, Mexico, has been feeding and housing the poorest of the poor in northern Mexico since the early 1990's. In 2000, with her own funds, she founded a home for street children which now includes a school, parents day out, and parent education program. She rents a small house in Hidalgo, Texas and travels daily across the border to deliver supplies. The custom agents on both sides know her well and allow her to deliver help to those in need. This is most unusual, as the border is officially closed and most of our ministry partners say that they cannot cross.

Since the Spring, the children have not been living in the home and instead are staying with relatives. 52 families come pick up food baskets every week. Since the hurricane hit, a meal and food basket are delivered each week to 150 families living in the garbage dump. The AMO program is embraced by the CASA MAMi teachers and will continue this fall as packets of homework will be sent home and returned every week. Sister Elma is a valuable partner not only because of her heart for the Lord and his suffering children but because of her history, ability to cross the border, and outstanding reputation in the RGV and northern Mexico.

We praise God that He has allowed us to share in His work by showing mercy and love in Jesus' name. The people we have met are humble and grateful. God bless them!

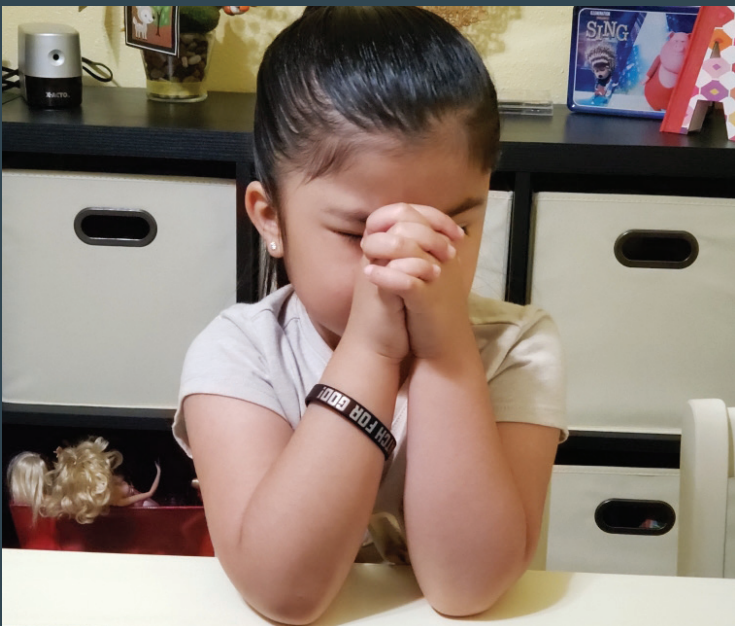


People living in the garbage dump of Reynosa, Mexico meet at a church to receive food baskets and milk (red boxes) that Sister Elma used our funds to purchase. The flooding from the recent storm left these people without much more than mud.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VIRTUAL VBS SUCCESS!



There is absolutely no way to express my thank you for the prodigious effort of all the volunteers and families who took part in VBS this year! This online project was the collective effort of many staff and FPC members. This VBS could NOT have been done without each of you and your support, time and prayers were a sweet fragrant offering to the Lord who certainly blessed us with an incredible VBS. As tremendous as this year's VBS vision was, everyone stepped up with eager enthusiasm to give our kids and guest kids one of the best VBS experiences ever! It will certainly go down as one of my very favorites for so many reasons!! Please allow me to specifically thank Catherine Witslet for her brilliant mastermind over creating a believable train depo in our VBS recording room. This back drop not only served as a pleasing visual for on camera but also gave volunteers an uncomplicated place to get into character, which in turn allowed for successful and delightful VBS segments as children worked through VBS virtually this year. Additionally, I would like to say bravo to all the families who were brave enough to take on VBS at home! Our prayer as a staff, is that our church community still feels as if we are there for them and will go above and beyond to bring church to them if necessary. Please enjoy the pictures, the smiles tell the story! Jesus be glorified always!

ROZLYN MILLER

Ministry Director to Children and their Families



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

NEW BABY

We have a new baby to celebrate with First Pres! Our church is happy to welcome two lovely ladies and two handsome little fellas! Pray for this family as they grow! If you wish to send this new baby a card or gift please contact Rozlyn Miller and we will let you know what is on their wish list!



Hans Alan Hassenflu
Born 07/16/2020 | 8 lbs 3.5 oz



Yucatan Peninsula Mission

Yucatan Peninsula Mission (YPM) has been advancing Redemptive Restoration in the Yucatan since the 1960's. First Pres has been in partnership with YPM for over 25 years. Mission teams have built churches, hospitals and staffed medical clinics. In 2017 Instituto YPM opened, offering University degrees in business administration, education and law. Shortly thereafter, an online component was added. Of particular note, unlike many "degree" programs offered in Mexico, iYPM graduates receive degrees that are recognized by the Federal Secretary of Education, and thus officially "licensed" and valid for employment across Mexico.

Within the year, the school will be adding an officially licensed Theology degree. This will differentiate iYPM from other Presbyterian/Protestant seminaries whose degrees are only accepted within Churches. The vision is that future Pastors who receive their education at iYPM will have degrees accepted for varieties of employment. In Mexico the majority of Pastors are compensated less than \$3,000 per year, so having additional sources of income is vital to their livelihood.

COVID-19

Covid-19 is having a devastating impact on the people around the YPM base camp in Leona



Vicario. As we all know, accurate counts of Covid-19 cases and deaths are elusive. But best estimates are that Mexico trails only Brazil and the United States in cases and deaths. And Covid appears to be much more deadly in Mexico. As of mid-August, Texas has had approximately 500,000 cases and just under 9,000 deaths. In Mexico, the case count is 500,000 but with over 50,000 reported fatalities.

The impacts of Covid-19 go beyond just the medical implications. Leona Vicario is located 25 miles from Cancun and many, if not most of the people from the villages, work in the tourist industry there. With the virtual shutdown of the tourist industry, the economic impact is devastating as well.

In April, Wilian Cen, executive director of YPM approached the YPM-USA Board with a proposal to address food insecurity issues in Leona Vicario due to job losses. In response, the YPM-USA Board approached supporting Churches to underwrite the costs of this program. First Pres responded generously and granted \$20,000 toward this relief effort. (It is worth noting that this was part of a much larger response that included more than \$100,000 in grants above annual funding amounts to mission partners across the globe.)

The program is ongoing and continues to evolve. One element has been the monthly distribution of essential provision bags, containing: 5 lbs Beans, 5 lbs Rice, 2 Bags of Pasta, 5 lbs of Maseca (corn flour), 2 liters of Bleach, Bar Soap and Detergent at a cost of about \$15. The distributions have occurred at the YPM base camp and at 7 different congregations in and around Leona Vicario. Included in the distributions have been 60 Pastors in the Presbytery of Northern Quintana Roo as well as 30 workers associated with YPM and the school. Cooked meals were also distributed at the YPM Base every day for two weeks beginning on 29 June, to people from the villages.

Speaking of iYPM, the school has continued to operate on-line throughout the crisis. Sadly, the virus has hit the school community hard and two students have died.

Living Waters - Clean Waters Installation

As many of you may know, FPC has been working diligently to install a water purification system next door to the school. A team from FPC was in Leona Vicario in February and worked on the construction of building that will house the system. The original plan was to install the system in May but was postponed due to the impacts of the virus.

FPC is working with the in-country Living Waters Yucatan



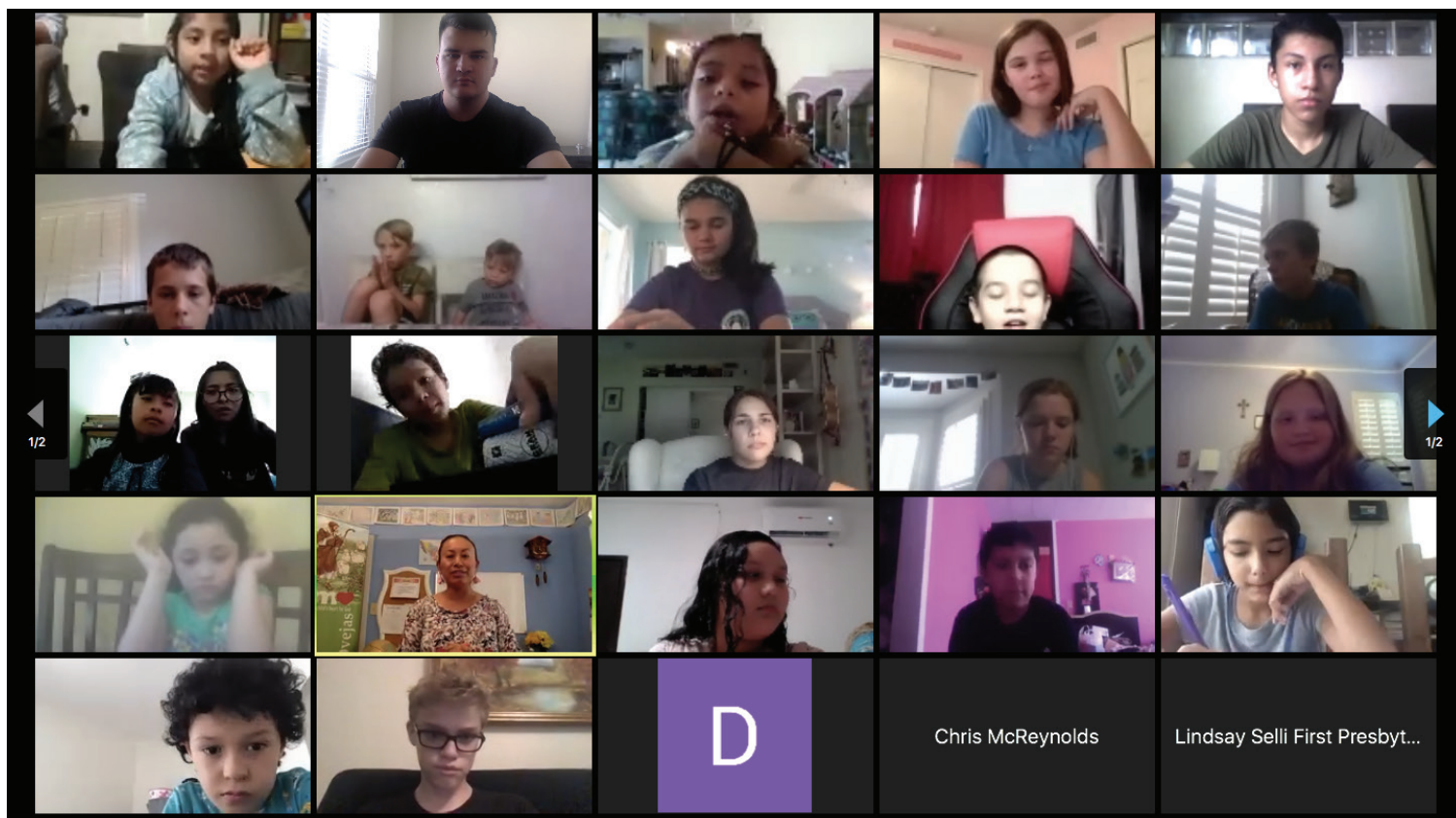


Network to have the system installed using local resources rather than our team from FPC. While not the standard model for system installations, the important thing is to provide clean water, so our hope is to have the system operational by the end of the year.

Prayers Needed

Please pray for safety, stamina and encouragement for Wilian and his wife Erly as they continue to work on the frontlines during this time of danger. We are fortunate to have such dedicated Christ-honoring partners working in the Yucatan. And we thank the FPC community that has been so very generous toward this fruitful Mission over the years.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO - VIRTUALLY!



This summer, our students were able to participate in a virtual mission trip by partnering with Chris and Francelia McReynolds through AMO Mexico and Chrysalis International! Our students helped lead a virtual literature class to children in Mexico using the C.S. Lewis classic, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. We read parts of the story in English teaching words, principles and accompanying scripture from the beloved novel. Children ages 3-10 heard native English speakers proclaim God's love! Our youth were featured on the AMO blog at amomexico.org.

KEYS

KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

KEYS UPDATE

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

September is normally our kick off month for a New KEYS year. This September will mark six months of quarantine from the Covid-19 virus. Who would have thought it would last this long. We are thankful for our health and safety over the last months and for the technology that has kept us together. Our weekly Zoom meetings and online services have provided necessary connections to nurture our relationships with each other and with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Chronicles 7:14 challenges us, *"if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* Let's join together in prayer for healing in our land.

- Joe Moore

JOINING US BY ZOOM IN SEPTEMBER:

September 4

Peggy Brown will be back checking in on our decluttering and downsizing

September 11

Monika Maeckle will give us a tour of her Monarch butterfly garden

September 18

We will be joined by giraffes from the San Antonio Zoo

September 25

A virtual guided tour of the Holocaust Museum

We meet on Fridays at 11:00 via 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.

FLU SHOTS:

Our Flu Shot Clinic is not likely to happen. We have heard recommendations to consider getting flu shots earlier this year. Connect with your doctor or local pharmacies. Be sure to have all the necessary documentation needed.

AARP DRIVING DISCOUNTS:

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

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SEPTEMBER UPDATE

BETSY ZACHRY

President, Women of the Church



As I reflect on the year ahead, I am reminded that recent history serves as a lesson from which I can learn! Judy Kruger's wonderful plans for the spring came to an abrupt halt by an organism invisible to the human eye. Holly's year as President of WOC was joyful with the celebration of two weddings but unexpected events continued to insert themselves throughout much of her year. These wonderful women of deep faith trusted in the Lord's plans and knew He walked with them through unique times. And so, it will be for each of us this year. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

While the officers, circle and committee chairs go through the process of preparing for the year ahead, we recognize that ultimately everything is in the Lord's hands and rather than grasping tightly to our efforts, we instead lift up these plans to the Lord. He will choose and we will

honor and celebrate His Holy Name whether we have all our events or none!

We look forward to hosting Doug and Barbie Beach as our speakers for the Fall Legacy Luncheon held on Monday, September 28. Meg Culp and Morgan Fuller will take luncheon reservations at the church on the following Sundays, September 6, 13, and 20. Online reservations will begin September 6 at fpcsanantonio.org/legacylunch. In addition, we will offer live streaming (just like Sunday Services) to watch from the comfort of your own home at fpcsanantonio.org/event-video. Anyone who wishes to support the wonderful work of NAMI may donate either in-person or online at nami-sat.org/donate_now.

For those circles interested in gathering together in person, and as the outdoor temperatures become milder, I encourage you to find ways to safely fellowship. Whether you meet on the terrace of the Church, on the patio or driveway of a member's home, or have a lunch and lesson at a park. The opportunities for safe gathering are numerous if handled appropriately. If you would like to use

the outdoor spaces at the Church, please contact Susan Dullnig to make a reservation.

By the way, every woman attending FPC is a member of Women of the Church. We invite you to join us in service, fellowship, and fun with your Christian sisters. All our events are open to any woman interested in attending.

I am excited to see how the Lord will use Women of the Church this year in service to our Church family, our mission partners and surrounding community. Come be a part!

If you have questions, please contact Betsy Zachry at betsyz@swbell.net or (210) 262-1236.

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS 2020

Christmas seems so far away but we all know how the holiday season sneaks up on us. FPC will be partnering with House of Neighborly Service again for the Gift of Christmas program, and 2020 promises to be a year of great need for many families in San Antonio. GOC is a wonderful opportunity for FPC covenant partners to love our neighbors and share the love of Christ with those in our community. Please prayerfully consider adopting a family this Christmas. More details will be coming soon.

In Christ,
Cassie McMillan and Janet Pritchett

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." (2 Corinthians 9:12)

UPCOMING WOC EVENTS:

- **175th Anniversary Cookbook - Deadline September 11**
ALL FPC MEMBERS, please submit recipes to Cookbook Chair, Judy Kruger at: judykruger@sbcglobal.net
- **Fall Legacy Luncheon**
Monday, September 28 | 11:30 AM
Speakers are Doug and Barbie Beach; \$20 Luncheon reservation, visit fpcsanantonio.org/legacylunch
- **WOC Moderators and Council Meeting**
Monday, October 5 | 9:45 AM | Westminster Hall
- **Christmas Craft Project for Morningside Manor Residents | Tuesday, October 20 | 9:30 AM | Room 108**
- **Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, October 20 | 6:30 PM**
Locations will be announced

FIRST CUP READINGS SEPTEMBER, 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 Luke 17:20-37; Genesis 7:6-24; 19:1-29; Revelation 6:12-17
- 2 Deuteronomy 14:28-29; Isaiah 1:16-17; Luke 18:1-8; Isaiah 58
- 3 Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 18:1-14; 23:1-12; 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Proverbs 22:6
- 4 Luke 18:15-17; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 2:28-3:10
- 5 Luke 18:18-30; Exodus 20:1-17; Job 34:16-19; 1 Peter 1:3-9

Oh, I love to walk with Jesus, like the publicans of old, when He gathered them about Him and the blessing tidings told: How He came to bring deliverance to the captives in distress; take away our every burden, giving perfect peace and rest. Oh, I love to walk with Jesus like the man of long ago, who had tarried by the wayside near the gates of Jericho. Jesus heard his cry for mercy, gave him back his sight that day and immediately he followed Jesus all along the way. Oh, I love to walk with Jesus all the way to Cal-v'ry's brow, gaze upon that scene of suffering while my tears of sorrow flow. There He tells me how He loves me, takes my every sin away; so I follow Him so gladly, lead me anywhere He may. (Worship in Song, #119)

- 6 Luke 18:31-34; Psalm 41:9; 22:16-18; Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:9-10
- 7 Luke 18:35-43; John 9; Psalm 146
- 8 Psalm 14; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 19:1-10; Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13; Isaiah 55
- 9 Luke 19:11-27; Proverbs 27:18; Matthew 25:31-46
- 10 Luke 19:28-44; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Zechariah 2; 9:9
- 11 Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2
- 12 Psalm 118; Luke 20:1-19; Acts 4:1-12; 1 Peter 2:1-10

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand--the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness' a rest upon the way from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me: and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess--the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness. (The Hymnbook, #190)

- 13 Luke 20:20-26; Romans 13; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Peter 5:5-12
- 14 Luke 20:27-40; John 11:1-45; Romans 6:8-14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-58

- 15 Malachi 2:1-9; Matthew 23; Luke 20:41-47; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 16 Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15; 1 Kings 17:1-16; Proverbs 3:27-28
- 17 Luke 21:5-38; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 3
- 18 Luke 22:1-6; Matthew 26:1-16; Matthew 10
- 19 Luke 22:7-71; John 13:13-38; Titus 1:10-16; Jude 3-4; 1 John 2:20-23

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt. Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt! Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson tide; Whiter than snow you may be today. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, Freely bestowed on all who believe! You that are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive? Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within! Grace that is greater than all our sin! (Worship in Song, # 213)

- 20 Matthew 27:1-56; Luke 23; John 19
- 21 Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-53; 1 Corinthians 15
- 22 Romans 1; Leviticus 18; Psalm 106
- 23 Romans 2; James 1:19-25; Matthew 7:1-5
- 24 Romans 3; Psalm 14; 5; Ephesians 1:3-14
- 25 Romans 4; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 6:28-40
- 26 Romans 5:1-11; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 Peter 4:12-19; James 5:10-11

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. Oh Light that follows all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blasé its day may brighter, fairer be. Oh cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be. (The Hymnal, # 400)

- 27 Romans 5:12-6:23; Ephesians 1:3-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:8
- 28 Romans 7; 2 Samuel 11; Mark 14:26-38; 51-71; Psalm 32
- 29 Romans 8:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
- 30 Romans 8:18-39; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 118

FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

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

[illegible]

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS



Jim and Mary Clifford join by Reaffirmation of Faith. Jim is Director of Underwriting Research with USAA and Mary is Dean of Students, 6th Grade lead teacher and Humanities for Geneva School of Boerne. As a couple, they love to paddleboard. They both look forward to fellowship with the church, growing in Christ, praying with others and serving with others.



Jacob Gray joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. Jacob is a Paraprofessional with the Special Education Department at Alamo Heights Independent School District. He is looking forward to growing closer to Jesus, Father, and Holy Spirit through the fellowship of believers at FPC. Also, he is excited to serve alongside other individuals of the community.



John and Jennie Brooks join by Reaffirmation of Faith. They are both from Memphis, TN, and moved to SA in early 2018. They have two boys, 9 and 12. They are both looking forward to joining the FPC community, continuing to serve and developing community.

CONNECT WITH US!

Interested in receiving the First Press magazine digitally?
Want to get the weekly newsletter email?

To Sign-Up go to:
fpcsanantonio.org/comm-connect



Hillary Stevenson is a CT Technologist for Complete Emergency Care. She is looking forward to the community in faith that offers connections.



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www.fpcsanantonio.org/media



Chris Sohn joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. He is looking forward to serving and meeting new people in the community.