



FIRST PRESS

FEBRUARY 2019



MISSION 709 SUNDAY



OPENING A DOOR TO A NEW RELATIONSHIP

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

In 2014 and 2015, events in Ukraine were front-page news. Political intrigue led to civil unrest. The unrest led to extensive violence and eventually to Russian annexation of Crimea and much of the eastern part of the country. Internal rivalries triggered international saber-rattling and revived familiar but unpleasant memories of the cold war. And while leaders in Western Europe, Russia and the United States positioned themselves politically, the people suffered. Approximately 5,000 people lost their lives and an estimated 1.5 million people were displaced from their homes. Many of them are brothers and sisters in Christ and sought safety and peace in Poland. Less than a century ago, Poland was ravaged by war and the mother of refugees. Now it has become a haven for refugees.

In 2019, FPC has an opportunity to step through the door into a New Relationship.

In February, as part of our Mission 709 movement, FPC will be sending a team to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ and to explore a great opportunity to serve through a partnership with New Life Eastern European Reform Christian Center (NLEERCC) in Warsaw, Poland. I will be joining Mitchell Moore, Edwyna Yarborough, Hunter Jackson, J.P. Scott, Charlotte Miller and Irina Villastrigo on the adventure.

I first learned about this situation from our own covenant partner (member), Irina Villastrigo. Irina is a native of Belarus (former Soviet Union) but came to the US in the 1990's and settled in San Antonio with her family. Before joining FPC in 2018, she was a member and Elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church here in San Antonio.

New Life Eastern European Reform Christian Center (NLEERCC) is a church planting ministry for Russian-language speakers in Poland. There are approximately 5 million Russian speakers in Poland. Many of them, but not all, are refugees from the Ukraine. There are about 500,000 Russian speakers in and around Warsaw. We will be visiting the Rev. Michael Baloga, who has established a protestant church of approximately 200 attenders in Warsaw. This year they have celebrated 18 baptisms and now have 10 Bible Study groups. In addition to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, they practice a ministry of welcome and hospitality by providing Polish language education, assisting in finding jobs and housing, and offering practical advice for day to day needs.

This ministry (NLEERCC) is helping people who have lost their country to find a home in the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. As we know in our own coun-

try, this is a complex issue. As we are learning in our study of II Corinthians, relationships and faith are complicated. How can a connection like this invigorate our thinking and prayer about our church's history and the refugee situation in our own backyard? How can God use this as a catalyst to stretch us even in our own neighborhood?

This relationship is new territory for FPC. The purpose of our journey is to listen to God's call and discern the role Christ might be calling us to play in this ministry. As we go, we will follow the agenda of the apostle Paul in Romans 1:11-12:

"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

We will go to encourage them by our gifts, prayers, passion and presence. We also know that we will be encouraged by the depth, experience, faith and passion that comes from having to rely completely on God. Please pray for us as we travel. Pray for our families, pray for our hosts and pray that Christ will open our eyes to see new horizons for Loving Jesus Christ, Loving One Another, Loving the City and Loving the Nations.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Fuller

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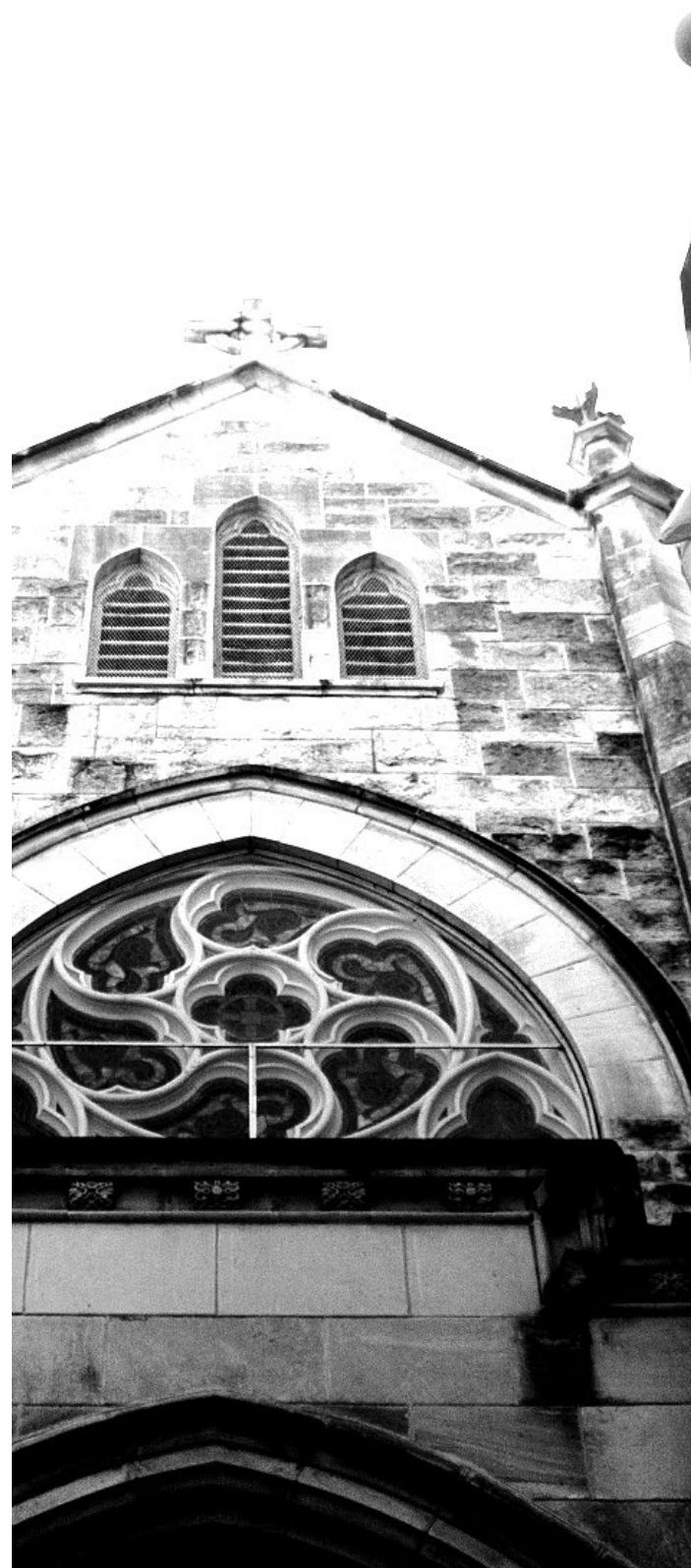
- 10-11 FIRST CUP

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SAVE THE DATE



CHILDREN'S SUMMER CARE

The Children's Center is in the works of offering summer care for children 5yrs. of age that will be entering kindergarten in the fall. If parents are interested and would like more information, contact Laura Ortiz at 210-225-0960, ext.281. Spaces are limited.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

FEBRUARY 12 • 1:30 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

A historical fiction novel by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie, "America's First Daughter," will be reviewed on Tuesday, February 12 at 1:30 PM in the McCullough Room by SAC English teacher, Jane Hansen. Based on true events, the book relates the relationship between daughter "Patsy" Jefferson and her father, Thomas. He was one of America's Founding Fathers and the third President of the U.S. It was during the Revolutionary War and the Jefferson family of 4 are forced to leave their Virginia home, Monticello, as the British are intent on capturing Mr. Jefferson. His wife, Martha, was not well and made Patsy promise to care for her younger sister and father after she dies. Patsy, indeed, looks after the family and is busy guarding secrets to protect reputations, especially her father's and his relationship with Sally Hemings, a mixed-race slave girl Patsy's age. The Literature Circle is for men and women of all ages, church members or non-members who love to read or just come and listen to a review of the book by a variety of speakers—ministers, teachers, architects, or authors. A coffee half-hour begins at 1:00 PM usually accompanied by a slice of delicious cake!

COWBOY BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY 10 | 9:30-10:30 AM | NUTRITION CENTER

Kids and Parents are invited to wear their best Cowboy Outfits. Bring a friend and your appetite to church for pancakes, bacon, and fellowship! For allergy or special needs accommodation please contact jennieb@fpcsat.org.

CDO FALL ENROLLMENT

The Children's Day Out program will begin enrolling new 18 month olds through new three year olds for next fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 1:00 PM. We will begin accepting enrollment applications on January 24. For information about this wonderful experience for young children to learn about God's love for them please email Jill Peavy at jillp@fpcsat.org

SA FELLOWS PROGRAM

The SA Fellows Program trains recent college graduates through an excellent church-based, nine-month spiritual and vocation leadership program that will prepare young men and women to lead a seamless life of faith and mission. For more info, visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/adults/young-adults/fellows-program/.

SING ME TO HEAVEN CONCERT

FEBRUARY 17 | 5:00 PM | WESTMINSTER HALL

Join us on Sunday Evening, February 17 in Westminster Hall as our Chamber Singers present a concert of inspiring choral music and reflections on the Psalms.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF

FEBRUARY 6-APRIL 24 | 12:30-2:00 PM | ROOM 224

Rev. Scott Simpson is offering a Wednesday Grief Education Class on understanding your grief to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one—one of life's most difficult and stressful experiences. Immediately following the conclusion of the class on April 24, Rev. Simpson will facilitate a support group for members of the class who are interested in participating. Reservations are requested by contacting Rev. Simpson at 210-271-2712 or Lisa Snow at 210-271-2760.

BAPTISM SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 3 | 12:15 – 2:00 PM | ROOM 108

If you are interested in having your child baptized at FPC, you must attend a baptism seminar prior to the date of baptism. Our next baptism seminar is February 3rd for baptisms happening February – April. Please contact Becky Prichard (beckyp@fpcsat.org) to register for this seminar and schedule your baptism.

DIVORCE CARE

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS | 6:30 PM | ROOM 226

Divorce Care is a 13-week video centered discussion group with the purpose of providing support and fellowship for individuals going through separation and divorce. Divorce Care began on January 9, but you are welcome to jump in at any time for any of the topics. If you get started in the middle, you can catch up during the next session or schedule opportunities to watch the videos that you miss. For more info, contact Joe Moore (joem@fpcsat.org) or visit divorcecare.org.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity: FPC will once again team with local Presbyterian churches to build a Habitat house... our 24th! We need volunteers on Saturdays from Feb 9th through April 13th. No special skills required! For more information, please contact Fred Wall at fredkwall@aol.com.

SPRING FLING

Spring Fling date: Friday, April 12, 2019
Location: Magnolia Gardens (2030 N. Main Ave.)
More information to come soon.



RECOGNITION FOR ROBES AND CROWNS

Thanks to the wonderful talent of four special ladies, last December's Children's Ministry Christmas Pageant had three new beautiful Magi robes and crowns!

Edwyna Yarbrough, Pat Johnson, and Ann Bunn worked most of last summer to create the Magi robes, and former Fiesta crown-maker, Sissy Tietz, shared her incredible gift for creating truly outstanding crowns for the Pageant.

The FPC Children's Ministry wishes to gratefully acknowledge the wonderful talent and dedication of time given. Thank you ladies!

MISSION 709 SUNDAY

ENGAGES OUR CONGREGATION AND MINISTRY PARTNERS TO ACTION IN 2019



crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

The Vision of our initiative is: Responding to God's grace through faithful participation in God's mission of redemptive restoration in our neighborhoods and among the nations.

Our mission is to engage 709 Covenant Partners to touch 5,000 lives through our Local and Global ministry partners.

Also, we are pleased to announce that our Kingdom Restoration Lab, located in an area on the first floor of FPC, that has been historically used for ministry outreach, opened just this month and is partnering with the SA Christian Hope Resource Center to provide a number of services to those in need!

For more information on how you can get involved in Mission 709, please email Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org. You can also sign up for our 9:38 Mission Prayer reminders via texting, where we send text reminders to prayer partners to pray to the Lord for His harvest, as we petition Him to raise up laborers for His harvest.

Note that there will be many ways to engage in Mission 709 this year, so stay tuned! We encourage you to participate and pray in support of this initiative!

With a new year comes a new commitment to Loving the City!

Sunday, January 6, we welcomed our congregation into 2019 with a special Congregational Commissioning Service, in which FPC formally reclaimed its heritage of mission work in the community.

In addition to an engaging and inspiring service, about 40 local and global mission partners were on hand for a special post-service reception, with display exhibits and information of how to directly engage in support of their efforts.

Mission 709 is based on Revelation 7:9-10, which states, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and

KEYS

BY JOE MOORE, OLDER ADULTS DIRECTOR



We want to thank Ambassador Sichan Siv for helping us to kick off our New Year in January. Over 130 attended to hear about his experience serving in the White House and his close relationship with the Bush Family.

Rick Cavender and Jackie VanDewalle will be on hand in February to Kick off and close out our Rodeo Theme. We will return to the Menger Hotel for our February Birthday/Valentine's Day Luncheon. If you celebrate your birthday in February, lunch is our gift to you!! February is also black history month and we have invited Everett Fly who has some interesting FPC history to share.

Did you know that KEYS is not an exclusive club for our older adults? Everyone is welcome to attend on Fridays and to join us on other activities as well. "Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit"

FEBRUARY 1 RICK CAVENDER

Rick Cavender will be back with us again for a walk down memory lane of classic Rock and Roll. This special day is \$15 per person. Doors will open at 10:30, Program starts at 11:00, Lunch is served at Noon.

**FEBRUARY 8
JACKIE VANDEWALLE FROM THE SA RODEO**
Jackie has been involved with farming, ranching and the San Antonio Rodeo all of her life. She will share with us the history of the life of a South Texas Ranching family and of the San Antonio Rodeo.

**FEBRUARY 15
BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON AT MENDER HOTEL**
The Menger Hotel Buffett has become our favorite place to celebrate Valentine's Day and our February Birthdays. The cost is \$15 for lunch. If you are celebrating your Birthday in February, lunch is our gift to you.

**FEBRUARY 22
EVERETT FLY, 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL**
Everett L. Fly, was honored with a White House Citation for preserving the integrity of African-American places and landmarks. He has done historical research involving FPC and will be sharing some interesting church history.

CONTACT
To make your reservation for all KEYS events contact Rosie Brown at 210-271-2753 or rosieb@fpcsat.org. The cost for meals at FPC are \$10. Birthday Luncheons are \$12 unless otherwise noted.

BRIDGE AND MAJ JONGG
Bridge and Mah Jongg are played following our Keys Luncheon from 1:00-3:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. You do not have to be a game master to play. If you have other games you enjoy, please let us know and you might just find others to join you.

SA READS
SA Reads needs your help to sort, categorize, and clean donated books that are used in local schools to provide reading material to children who may not have the opportunity to own books of their own. Jane Warren (210-493-5187) is the person to contact with any questions about this program. The work is done at the at the Firstmark Credit Union 10730 Gulfdale Drive on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Join in on this great service project as well as the fellowship of working together.

**LOOKING AHEAD
MARCH 22**
Mayor Ron Nirenberg will be with us to share insights on what is happening in San Antonio and how we can be responsible citizens of the River City.

APRIL 12
KEYS Fiesta Celebration with a visit from King Antonio.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

BY HOLLY YOUNGQUIST, PRESIDENT



After a full and busy December, January was a quiet but good month for WOC. A wonderful combined worship service on January 6th that challenged and focused us on Missions was a fantastic way to kick off a new year. My prayer for all of us, and in particular WOC, is to hear and be obedient to God’s calling on our lives as we continue to love and serve one another and our city. Let’s seek to find the unexpected in our daily lives!

Circle 7 said “YES” to an idea that Co-Chairman Candy Wagner suggested after enduring iron infusions at a treatment center this past fall. Many of the other patients were receiving chemotherapy and spent long hours just waiting for the treatments to be completed. Circle 7 purchased various items and made “chemo goody bags” then delivered them to treatment centers around San Antonio. Their presence was such a blessing to not only the patients but to members of Circle 7. Amazing what God can do with a simple “yes!”

Our Winter Ladies Night Out at La Fonda on Main was a huge success. We are grateful to them for always being will to host us and to offer us the use of their back room at a discounted cost. New relationships were formed and others deepened. To God be the glory for such a wonderful time of fellowship.

If you are looking for ways to connect with WOC, please consider visiting a Circle. It is not necessary to “join;” you are simply invited to come and see! Of course, feel free to contact me and I’d be happy to join you as you explore ways to make FPC more of your church home. Sometimes taking the first step is the hardest, but in keeping with our church’s vision....just say YES and see where God leads.

Our Spring Luncheon will be held on March 25th in Westminster Hall. We will honor and celebrate all Military Families and will hear from Ginger Ravella, author of Hope Found and speaker for Folds of Honor. You won’t want to miss her amazing story.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH MEETINGS

ALL CIRCLES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS.
IF ONE OF THESE CIRCLES INTERESTS YOU, PLEASE COME!

CIRCLE 1/12 – BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, February 18 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Optional lunch \$8.00
Chairs: Suzanne Thomas (210-846-3240/ suzannethomas54@gmail.com); Lynn Thompson (210-824-2815/lynn@thompsondata.com)
Moderator: Grace Labatt (210-824-1320/ gblabatt@yahoo.com)
Study: 1 Peter

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY
Friday, February 15 • 12:00 PM • FPC Room 228
Chairs: Jane Ann Temple (210-828-7542/ 210-414-9956 (C)/jatemple@att.net); Kay Weber (210-288-5290/kayweber276@gmail.com)

CIRCLE 6 – BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, February 19 • 1:30 PM • FPC Geneva Room
Chair: Carolyn Walthall (210-828-9739/ ckwalthall4@aol.com)
Moderators: Jane Buchek (210-826-2966/ 210-685-4589 (C)/janebuchek@sbcglobal.net)
Kay Case (210-826-5811/210-861-7782 (C)/ kngcase@hotmail.com); June Eubank (210-829-8641/210-872-3060 (C)/ juneubank@yahoo.com); Barbara Winship (210-930-7093/210-862-5612 (C)/ barbarawinship@sbcglobal.net)
Study: “Just Open the Door” by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 7 – BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, February 19 • 11:30 AM • Location TBD (Please contact circle chairs for location.)
Co-Chairs: Cynthia Robinson (210-861-2520/ ccrobin@swbell.net); Candy Wagner (210-863-3623/ candywagner@sbcglobal.net)
Moderators: Members of Circle 7
Study: “Just Open the Door” by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 8 – MOMS’ GROUP
Mom’s Night Out • Tuesday, February 5 • 7:30 PM
Soluna (7959 Broadway Street #204)
Chairs: Sara Parish (210-394-0865/ sara23sc@hotmail.com); Lilly Gretzinger (210-601-0575/lilly@bunngroup.com); Meg Walker (210-601-7745/meg@aladdincleans.com)

CIRCLE 9 – BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, February 19 • 10:00 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Hostesses: Glenda Jennison and Rosemary Marmon
Chairs: Lucille Lammert (210-832-8414/210-289-3580

(C)/lammert.lucille@gmail.com); Frances Warrick (210-408-1775/fwarrick@sbcglobal.net)
Moderators: Members of Circle 9
Study: “Just Open the Door” by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 11 – BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, February 25 • 6:30 PM
Hostess: Laura Johnstone (3806 Park Gate Street 78230)
Chairs: Karin Gabrielson (210-843-2475/ karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com); Pat Brodeen (210-494-1534/pat@brodeen.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 11
Study: “Just Open the Door” by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 13 – LITERATURE CIRCLE
Tuesday, February 12 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)
Book: “Killers of the Flower Moon” by David Grann
Reviewer: Janice Clayton

CIRCLE 14 – BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, February 25 • 12:00 PM • FPC: St. Andrew’s
Optional lunch \$8.00
Chair: Karen Carawan (210-213-4589/karen@sarodeo.com)
Moderator: Amy Robinson (210-863-1035/ amy@robinsonvalue.com)
Study: “Devotional Classics” by Richard Foster and James Byron Smith

CIRCLE 16 – MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, February 20 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228
Chair: Lee Pressly (210-735-0978)

CIRCLE 17 – EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, February 13 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309
Chairs: Jeanne Baker (210-494-0972/ rbaker127@sbcglobal.net); Gigi Duke (210-695-4363)

CIRCLE 18 – CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE
No meetings
Chairs: Char-An Witten (210-341-1856); Georgia Heath (210-695-9511/gkhymheath@earthlink.net)

CIRCLE 19 – WHITE CROSS CIRCLE
Wednesday, February 6 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309
Chair: Janet Beauch (210-673-3251/tabeauch@flash.net)


CIRCLE 20 – CIRCLE OF SERVICE
No meetings
Chair: Bunkie Shed (210-445-0724/ bshed@grandecom.net)

FIRST CUP READINGS FEBRUARY, 2019

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 our libraries. 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 and Claire Averyt



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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 Joshua 1:1-9; 2 Chronicles 34; Psalm 119:137-144
2 Deuteronomy 16:1-8; 2 Chronicles 35;
1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-32

The Lord I will at all times bless, my mouth His praises shall express; In Him shall all my boasting be, while all the meek rejoice with me. O magnify the Lord with me, let us to praise His name agree; I sought the Lord, He answered me, and from my fears He set me free. Who look to Him shall walk in light, with joy their faces shall be bright, distressed they cried; the Lord arose and saved them out of all their woes.

(The Hymnbook, #412)

- 3 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 52; 1 Corinthians
3:16-17; 6:18-20; Ephesians 2:19-22
- 4 Esther 1; Proverbs 23:19-35; Ecclesiastes 2;
Ephesians 5:1-20
- 5 Esther 2; Psalm 45
- 6 Esther 3; Proverbs 14:16; 26:8; Psalm 91
- 7 Esther 4; Psalm 34; 125
- 8 Esther 5-6; Proverbs 26:1; 3:29-35; Psalm 62
- 9 Esther 7; Psalm 52; 55; Proverbs 16:18; 29:23;
31:8-9; Galatians 6:7-10

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shieldeth thee under His wings, yea so gently sustaineth. Hast Thou not seen how the desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth? Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the amen sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him. (The Methodist Hymnal, #55)

- 10 Esther 8-10; Psalm 7; 71; 73
11 Ezra 1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
12 Ezra 3; Psalm 126; 103
13 Ezra 4; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18;
14 Isaiah 2; Haggai 1-2; Hebrews 12:22-29
15 Ezra 5-6; Exodus 12:17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34
16 Ezra 7; Deuteronomy 28:58-68; 2 Timothy 2:15;
Acts 17:10-12

How I love Thy law, O Lord! Daily joy its truths afford;
on its constant light I go, wise to conquer every foe. Thy
commandments in my heart truest wisdom can impart;
to my eyes Thy precepts show wisdom more than sages know. While my heart Thy word obeys, I am kept
from evil ways; from Thy law, with Thee to guide, may I
never turn aside. Sweeter are Thy words to me than all
other good can be; safe I walk, Thy truth my light, hating
falsehood, loving right. (The Hymnbook, # 253)


- 17 Ezra 8; Joel 2
18 Genesis 28:1-4; Deuteronomy 7:1-6;
Joshua 23:9-14; Ezra 9; Malachi 2:10-3:5
19 Ezra 10; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18;
1 Corinthians 7:10-24
20 Nehemiah 1-2; Matthew 21:21-22; Mark 11:22-25;
Philippians 4:4-7; 1 Peter 3:12
21 Nehemiah 3; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 4:1-16;
1 Corinthians 12
22 Nehemiah 4; Romans 8:18-39;
1 Thessalonians 5:24
23 Nehemiah 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15;
Luke 14:25-35

We would be building; temples still undone. O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift; waiting till love can raise the broken stone and hearts creative bridge the human rift. We would be building; O Master, let Thy plan reveal the life God would give to man. Teach us to build; upon the Solid Rock we set the dream that hardens into deed, ribbed with the steel that time and change doth mock. The unfailing purpose of our noblest creed; teach us to build; O Master, lend us sight to see the towers gleaming in the light. Oh grant enduring worth until the Heavenly Kingdom comes on earth. (The Hymnbook, #470)

- 24 Nehemiah 6-7:73; Romans 12:1-13
25 Nehemiah 8; Joshua 1:6-9; Psalm 126
26 Nehemiah 9-10:39; Exodus 20:8-10;
1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Matthew 6:2-4
27 Nehemiah 12:27-47; Psalm 27; Colossians 3:16;
Romans 15:5-13
28 Nehemiah 13; Exodus 31:14-17; Matthew 12:1-12;
Psalm 103

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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